

THE GATEWAY

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Now the time for revolutionary change: Davis

Former Black Panther
Angela Davis wraps up
Revolutionary Speakers
Series with call to
'rescue the radical'

MEGHAN POTKINS
News Staff

Angela Davis was the third woman to appear on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List, but on Tuesday night, the former member of the Communist Party USA and former associate of the Black Panther Party was welcomed to a full house at Myer Horowitz Theatre.

An advocate for prisoner's rights, a prison abolitionist and currently a professor at the University of California, Davis' controversial activism led her to a 16-month incarceration in 1970.

"One of the most revolutionary strategies we can now undertake, it seems to me, is to rescue the radical, the revolutionary meaning of democracy."

ANGELA DAVIS

Davis, who still gets hassled by customs when crossing the border into Canada, reflected on the theme of revolutionary speakers and suggested that revolutionary change is perhaps more necessary than ever in today's world.

"In all of the years that I've been involved in political activism—and ... I spent two years on the run, in jail, on trial—and in all of those years, I never before felt that the progressive, radical, even revolutionary potential of democracy was receding as it is today. "One of the most revolutionary strategies we can now undertake, it seems to me, is to rescue the radical, the revolutionary meaning of democracy," said Davis.

Davis levelled particularly strong criticisms towards the direction America has taken under the Bush administration in the post-11 September era.

"The government of the country in which I live unequivocally aspires to a global dominance [and] global domination under the sign of democracy," she said.

"For the last six years ... Bush has repeated the words 'democracy' and 'freedom' and 'liberty' so many times without ever conveying the sense that he understands these complicated ideas," said Davis.

More than once during the lecture Davis echoed a sentiment now gaining popularity in the US, and articulated boldly on the cover of the March edition of *Harper's Magazine*: "Impeach



NEAL WILKINSON
HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE TO DO Angela Davis spoke to a packed house at the Myer Horowitz Theatre on Tuesday night.

him," in reference to President George W. Bush.

"I would really like to see Bush be impeached," said Davis.

"I know it's not going to make a major difference, because he's a lame duck president anyway, but if we can send him back to Crawford, Texas as an impeached president, it will say an enormous amount to people all over the country, all over this hemisphere

and all over the world."

Davis also spoke broadly on the subject of terror and suggested that, in America, the enemies of democracy and freedom—embodied in the terrorists—have become increasingly racialized.

"The figure of the terrorist becomes ever more comprehensive and all embracing, from Osama Bin Laden to Saddam Hussein to potentially any

Afghan and especially any Iraqi ... to anyone who practices Islam, to anyone who looks like they might embrace Islam, to anyone who might have contact with someone who might have had bad thoughts about America."

Davis also emphasized that the use of torture as a tactic in the war on terror has been disproportionately applied against persons of colour.

PLEASE SEE DAVIS • PAGE 3

Covert sting op uncovers plagiarism scheme

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

An undercover sting operation, orchestrated after a student tipped CTV News about an alleged plagiarism ring at the University of Alberta, led to the revelation that a former sessional instructor was accepting money from students in exchange for papers.

A broadcast journalist posing as a student approached the suspect, Peter Klovén, who was frequently seen tutoring students around campus, and propositioned him to write a paper—a request that was accepted.

Later, money was exchanged for the work, at which point the operation unfolded with camera crews in the Students' Union Building, ultimately leading Campus Security to ban Klovén from the University. The story came out on Monday evening's broadcast of CTV News.

"My understanding is that this [took place] over several years, with literally hundreds of papers written," said Garret Epp, chair of the English Department. "It's likely not an isolated incident, here or anywhere else."

While the Academic Integrity office and the OmbudService often deal with cheating and plagiarism, actual instances of students being caught purchasing original essays are rare, as offenders are unlikely to come forward. However, whether the low rate is due to actual rarity of offence or the difficulty of detection is unknown, explained Chris Henderson, a director at the student OmbudService.

"In the two years that I've worked here, this is the first time I've heard of a student buying a paper," Henderson said.

According to Henderson, such an offence would typically mean an automatic fail in the course and a four-month suspension from the University, at the very least. And while Epp said that some types of plagiarism are easy to identify, it's difficult to uncover more elaborate schemes.

"This is the toughest sort of cheating to catch," Epp said. "If [a student] has plagiarized something from the Internet, it's relatively easy to find a source, but if someone else has simply written their paper, you can't prove it unless you know who wrote it."

Henderson echoed these statements, and went on to explain that even in cases of academic dishonesty, it's extremely difficult—if not impossible—to determine how widespread a case may be.

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Learn how to argue

There are lots of good arguments against the Sherwood Park curfew. Unfortunately, teenagers are stupid.

OPINION, PAGE 9



He pissed on your rug

The *Big Lebowski* is revisited in today's A&E. It really ties this issue of the Gateway together.

A&E, PAGE 14

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Difficult to catch cheaters who pay for essays, Epp says

PAPERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's a reactive process rather than a proactive one; it's not like the English Department is out there busting cheating rings," Henderson said. "If you're discovered to be handing in a term paper that was plagiarized, though, the repercussions of it would be quite serious."

Epp did point out that professors can combat this form of plagiarism by requiring students to provide multiple drafts and revisions of their work in class, but explained that it's too time-consuming to use on every assignment.

"It's an awful lot of work for an instructor, and not all instructors are interested or able to work that way," said Epp. "It's a very particular form of instruction, but it's really the only way to avoid this particular kind of cheating."

Tim Schneider, Vice-President (Programs) for the Arts Students' Association, is involved with the University's Writing Task Force, a group studying writing requirements and standards in the Faculty of Arts, as well as potential changes needed to first-year English courses. According to Schneider, when students buy essays, it indicates more than just a simple case of procrastination.

"Students aren't stupid; they're intelligent," Schneider stressed. "The only reason they would do this is because they felt the difficulty level was above average."

He went on to say that he didn't think students would pay money for something they could do themselves, unless they were lacking the necessary skill to make the grade.

"I think this indicates a disconnect between the high school system [and

universities], and that students aren't being prepared properly, so when they come in [to university], they don't feel prepared to write these papers," Schneider said. "I think it indicated a lack of confidence in students and their ability to write properly."

While a lack of confidence may lead some students to cheat, resources are available to students who feel either stressed by schoolwork or unequipped to meet demands placed on them by the university. Organizations like the Academic District Centre and the Academic Guidance Centre are services set up to assist students, but as Johnston noted, those who need them may not be fully aware of all the resources offered.

"I think the services that are available to students are not well known enough," said Johnston. "It doesn't

matter how much you know. If you can't say what you know, you can't make the grade. It's definitely one of, if not the most important skill in any university student's career."

In a follow-up piece Tuesday, CTV found Kloten continuing his tutoring at Edmonton's Stanley Milner Library.

Combating plagiarism and motivating students against this method will always be an ongoing battle, Epp said, but with the reputation of departments and the University at stake, this situation is especially disappointing.

"It saddens me more than anything else that someone would be doing this sort of thing," said Epp. "If you've got someone sitting in SUB talking to a student, that's almost always quite legitimate. [You're not] going to catch someone unless they come forward, and I'm glad that someone did."

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lihwal

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4 April.

Council was under close scrutiny this week, as three visiting high school students sat in to learn about the inner workings of the University's Students' Union. And the students were in for a treat, as Council dove into the exciting world of budgets and bylaws.

One of the first orders of business was a vote on Bill 36, an effort to clean up some out-dated and unnecessary bylaws, as well as to codify a few practices and matters that weren't explicitly laid out in writing. Included in the bill were clarifications on the mandate and responsibilities of the Executive, including an amendment that required all voting members of the Executive to be members of the SU, which hadn't yet been explicitly stated. It was passed with no opposition.

LETTNER THE ANSWER MAN

During question period, SU President Graham Lettner gave an update on the Travel Cuts lawsuit settlement, which faced difficulties after he made controversial comments to the Gateway last month. He explained that SU General Manager Bill Smith and Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias were currently in Ontario, discussing the details of the case with the other plain-

tiffs. Lettner noted that there was a few "diffusions of opinion" over legal matters, but felt that things were going well.

Lettner also answered a budgetary question about the creation of a new full-time Marketing Assistant position; in fact, the position is a conversion of a part-time position to full-time one. Another issue came up regarding a proposition discussed in September that would allow student groups access to "smart" classrooms. As the plan stands now, student groups will need to book a classroom before the beginning of term, so that training sessions can be made available, thus eliminating the need to hire a technician to operate things. After one year, access may be granted to the classrooms through ONEcard authorization.

BUDGET DEBATE BEGINS

Finally, Council turned to the night's main event: debate on principles for next year's budget. Among the major principles were the restructuring of the floundering PowerPlant into a coffee shop and buffet, increased staff and funding for the SU's advocacy and marketing departments, and the merger of Academic Guidance and Information Services into one organization.

An amendment was put forth that looked to clarify the wording regarding the aforementioned Marketing Assistant position, as well as make it a one-year pilot project. The second part of the amendment caused quite a stir, with supporters arguing that it would allow the SU to re-evaluate the need for the full-time position, an important measure considering the Marketing Department's swelling costs. Those opposed to making it a pilot project pointed out that there were already processes in place to make sure that such

positions were effective. In the end, the amendment clarifying the wording was passed, but the push to make the position a pilot project failed.

The next amendment took up the Council of Council's time. Science Counselor Steve Kirkham proposed an amendment to the budget principles that the SU would not make any profit from the sale of tobacco products, which would still allow SU-run businesses to sell tobacco at cost (see story on page 3). After much debate, the proposal was amended to ban tobacco sales completely, and the amended amendment was then debated over more.

In light of the strenuous debate, a recess was called to let everyone catch their breath, with debate still ongoing.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

After recess, the mood was lightened by the effects of a charity fundraiser put on by the Engineering Students' Society. Earlier in the week, donations had been accepted in exchange for the chance to be a member of Council. Of the four targets, VP (Academic) Matt Johnston, Lettner, and Tobias—who, being absent, was represented by his incoming successor, Chris Cunningham—were nominated by the Dean of Engineering, while Speaker Greg Harlow was targeted by students Mustafa Hirji and Chris Jones for "crimes against governance." To the cheers of others Council members, the four were hit in the face with whipped cream. After a quick cleanup, Council was back to business.

AND NOW FOR MORE OF THE SAME

After further debate, Council eventually passed the tobacco sales budget principle, and with the issue behind

them, Council's attention fell on another amendment to the budget principles. Arts Counselor Catrin Berghoff put forth a motion that would provide a stipend to Councilors, coming into effect in May. It was argued that such compensation would provide more incentive to commit to Council duties, as well as making it easier for working students to run for Council positions. Law Counselor Kyle Kawamara countered that members were "already padding our resumes, and we should not be padding our wallets at the same time."

GOING TO OVERTIME

The opposition argued that Councilors did not do enough to deserve compensation, and such action would cause a greater disconnect between students and the Council. While many of the arguments reached or exceeded the time limit allowed to Councilors, Harlow remarked that, "The chair is hearing the first quality debate in Council I have heard during my six years here, and I am loathe to interrupt it." Arrangements were made to allow the meeting to continue past its usual 10pm limit, and eventually the amendment was passed. The directive to pay Councilors for their work was added to the budget principles.

A final amendment to the budget principles was then debated, calling for the SU to allocate funds for the revitalization of the PowerPlant. The debate on the matter was short, and the proposed amendment was shot down. When it finally came time to vote on passing the budget principles as amended, which Council did so with an overwhelming number in favour. Within a second of that vote, Lettner moved that Council adjourn, which was immediately seconded and passed.

don't get stuck waiting... get here early

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Whitby Ave

Council votes to cease tobacco sales at Students' Union businesses

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The Students' Union's tobacco plebiscite earlier this month had its first major consequence, as Students' Council voted to cease SU sales of tobacco Tuesday night.

After a debate that took up nearly half of its four-hour meeting, Council eventually approved a new budget principle that the SU quit selling tobacco products. Currently, the SU-owned SUBmart convenience store sells tobacco, as does the Powerplant through a cigarette vending machine.

For most of the councillors who argued in favour of the change, the decision boiled down to respecting the results of the plebiscite, in which 60 per cent of undergraduate voters supported a proposal to ban the sale and use of tobacco products on the U of A campus.

As a plebiscite, the result was non-binding on the SU, but a majority of councillors took it as a clear sign that students don't support the sale of tobacco on campus.

"The Students' Union is run by 30 000 students who explicitly told us they wanted a tobacco ban," said Arts Councilor Al-Amyn Sumar during the debate. "If Students' Council doesn't pass this amendment, we're clearly ignoring the express will of students."

Critics pointed out that the SU is expected to lose between \$30 000

and \$50 000 in annual revenue without tobacco sales, and argued that since the plebiscite was non-binding, Council should have felt free to exercise judgment on whether that lost revenue is acceptable.

"If you're a visible minority, you don't have to buy two packs a day of visible minority; you just are. Smokers make a choice. This is a silly argument and we shouldn't even be considering it."

ENGINEERING COUNCILOR JAMES CROSSMAN, ON ARGUMENTS THAT RESTRICTING TOBACCO ON CAMPUS INFRINGES ON MINORITY RIGHTS

"I think it's in Council's purview, and it's councilors' obligation, to make decisions for the Students' Union. That's why we're elected," said SU President Graham Lettner, who said the loss of tobacco revenues could force cuts to SU services.

"I don't see a need for this Council to take a 60-per-cent-in-favour result from a non-binding plebiscite and

immediately impose that into our budget, throwing things askew," he added.

Engineering Councilor James Crossman granted that the financial aspect of the decision can't be glossed over, but argued that it's Council's job to implement the will of students as expressed at election.

"There may be challenges, we may have to prioritize, but it's our duty to make those accommodations based on the decision students have made," he said.

Some councilors also argued that, regardless of the result of the plebiscite, a majority of students shouldn't have the ability to restrict the rights of the minority who smoke. Crossman, though, was quick to brush aside that point.

"If you're a visible minority, you don't have to buy two packs a day of 'visible minority'; you just are," said Crossman. "Smokers make a choice. This is a silly argument and we shouldn't even be considering it."

The original amendment before Council, moved by Science Councilor Steve Kirkham, called that the SU not profit from the sale of tobacco products, but after a lengthy debate it was amended to explicitly call for an end to tobacco sales. Board of Governors representative Adam Cook moved an amendment that any lost revenues be made up for by an increase in the base SU membership fee, but it was soundly defeated after much debate.



ASHLEY SCARLETT

WE LIVE IN TROUBLING TIMES Dr. Angela Davis argues that once bad images cease being "good copy," they slip away.

People quick to forget torture, Davis says

DAVIS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"What concerns me most about our current predicament is the extent to which we are all afflicted with historical amnesia—so much so that we do not naturally make the connections between, say, the lynching of black people in the aftermath of the civil war ... and the infliction of torture on the bodies and psyches of non-white people in places like Iraq and Afghanistan and Cuba [at Guantanamo Bay]," said Davis.

Citing the torture that occurred at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Davis warned against the dangers of forgetting about acts of torture once the

images have receded from immediate media focus and attention.

"What concerns me most about our current predicament is the extent to which we are all afflicted with historical amnesia ..."

ANGELA DAVIS

"We quickly forget the impact of awful visual images," said Davis.

"Somewhere or another our memory is so tied to the media that we are capable of having conversations about certain issues only when the media deem it 'good copy' and new news."

"But then when it recedes, we allow that to do the work of removing not only the memory, but removing the effect we've experienced when we think about something like the visual representations of torture," she added.

Despite these difficulties, Davis remains optimistic, suggesting the importance of building communities of resistance.

"I still think we can change the world," said Davis.

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Campus Bars: a service for students, staff, alumni and guests

Gender assumptions still plague politics and media: Trimble

WHITNEY LIGHT
The Uniter

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Belinda Stronach was dubbed the "national woman of mystery," "Parliament Hill Barbie," and the "great blonde hope" by Canadian national press in 2004 during the last federal Conservative leadership race. And though she garnered significantly more press coverage than either of her opponents—Stephen Harper and Tony Clement—it was Harper who easily swept up the victory, raising the question of how the media attention influenced the race.

Linda Trimble, a political science professor at the University of Alberta, addressed this issue last week as she presented a free public lecture at the University of Winnipeg titled "Gender, Political Leadership and the Press."

In an in-depth research project, Trimble analyzed 268 stories printed in the *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post* on the topic of the Conservative leadership race. Her goal was to identify differences between the media coverage of male and female candidates and the promotion of sex role stereotypes.

"Media are the lens through which citizens see politics," said Trimble. "We have to ask, 'Is it distorted?'"

What Trimble's research revealed was that Stronach's visibility was not due to her "winnability" factor—Harper was pegged as the most viable candidate—but to her news value. A woman in the race was seen as a novelty, said Trimble, and the press was eager to exploit the sex appeal. Significantly more stories about Stronach focused on her background than did stories about her male com-

petitors. Also, one third of stories talked about her looks, with 14 per cent mentioning them first.

Unfortunately for Stronach, she became a caricature, according to Trimble—a "silent beauty" who kept her mouth shut for the good of the party.

"She was seen as not remotely qualified," Trimble said.

With the federal Liberals gearing up for a leadership race in light of Paul Martin's stepping down, a new opportunity emerges for the examination of politics, gender and mass media. Martha Hall Findlay, a Toronto lawyer, has confirmed that she will run, and there's talk that Stronach is considering entering the race, having crossed the floor to the Liberal party in May 2005.

And while Trimble is interested in analyzing the upcoming race, she won't predict an outcome. However, she did say that the way Stronach is portrayed in the media this time could be affected by the party switch and the fact that her political experience has grown significantly since 2004.

"Some people will point out that gender is an issue," said Quito Maggi, manager of the Findlay campaign. "But as far as Martha and the campaign is concerned, there will be capable men and capable women."

Maggi went on to say that though Findlay is a woman, the media is interested in her appearance and background, rather than just the political issues, for other reasons.

"If you don't have the image first, the whole package, it never gets to the substance. People won't give you the opportunity to get to the next step," Maggi said.

To some extent, Trimble agreed



WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE Linda Trimble spoke at the University of Winnipeg about women in Canadian politics.

there are other factors at work besides the issue of gender, acknowledging that men's appearances are also discussed in the media, and that people tend to respond more positively to attractive candidates, regardless of their competence.

For Marianne Cerilli, a part-time professor of politics at the U of W, it's all in how a woman approaches the game that determines how they're portrayed.

"A lot of women are prepared to

play in the paternalistic, top-down game," said Cerilli, who in 1990 was the youngest woman to be elected to the Manitoba Legislature. "But to be a feminist in politics, that's what's missing and needed."

Cerilli said that she had some negative encounters with media during her term as an MLA, partly because she was a woman, and partly because she was "young, ethnic and radicalized."

"I got the shit kicked out of me by the media because I called the Tories

a bunch of old white guys," she said. "I was treated badly not just because I'm a woman, but because I'm an eco-feminist."

Trimble went on to say that it's important that women continue to challenge the male-dominated political sphere.

"The norms of performance and evaluation remain masculine," Trimble says. "Women seeking political roles disrupt deeply entrenched gendered assumptions."

2006 COUNCILLOR ELECTION RESULTS

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STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Natalie Climenhaga and
Chloé Fedio

A former U of A
sessional instructor was
recently caught selling
essays to students (see
story on page 1).

How pervasive a
problem do you think
plagiarism is at the
U of A?



**Cody
Sherstabetoff**
Physical
Education III

In certain faculties, yeah. For instance, I'd
probably say Arts more because they do
a lot more writing than engineering. But
yeah, I'd say it's a problem.



Damien Wild
Physical Therapy
MScI

Yeah, I was a TA in exercise physiology,
and one of my students gave me refer-
ences in Polish and Russian. It's not actu-
ally plagiarism, but she didn't even read
the papers. But there's a lot of plagiarism
on campus, and I think that to a certain
extent the administration can come
down a lot harder than it needs to, but I
think most people are pretty cool about
it. It's harsh but fair... There's got to be
some leniency though. I don't know if
you'll talk to anyone who hasn't bent
the rules a little bit or fudged a reference
here and there.



Graham Taylor
Science I

As soon as I heard about it, I wrote an
e-mail to my English prof, because I was
really worried about my essay that I
handed in yesterday, because as soon as
she came in she was like, "Guys, we need
to talk." And I didn't plagiarize on it, but
I cited wrong, so I freaked out about it.
But I've seen the guy here in SUB before
and I've seen him talking with students.
I think it's really bad, because here I am
busting my ass for five days straight on
something, whereas other students can
go up the guy and give \$100 and they
get a B.



Katrina Panis
Science I

In none of my courses, I'm pretty sure these
students are cheating. I don't think it's fair
because everybody here, the majority
of people, are working hard to do well in
school, and they get penalized.

Québec students celebrate first anniversary of strike

ERIKA MEERE
CUP Québec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL (CUP)—Québec's once-
ubiquitous felt red square will surface
again this week, as university and col-
lege students reflect on the one-year
anniversary of a strike against provin-
cial cuts to financial aid and continue their
fight for a more accessible public
education system.

Many students will commemorate
the strike with a demonstration today
organized by the Coalition for
Accessible Public Education (CAPE),
which is demanding a freeze on
tuition and ancillary fees, \$4.9 billion
in dedicated federal transfer pay-
ments for postsecondary education,
improvements to the loans and bursar-
ies system, and an end to corporate
influence that it says threatens the
quality of education.

"Basically, there was a lot of interest
in rekindling the student movement
and moving forward from there," said
Bianca Nugyenyi, a CAPE spokesper-
son. "We're looking toward quality
and accessible education."

Nugyenyi emphasized the growing
corporatization of university
campuses, pointing to the presence
of corporate food providers in many
university buildings and to the close
ties between research and business
that may restrict the type of research
that is done.

CAPE includes the Québec branch
of the Canadian Federation of Students
(CFS-Q), the Graduate Student
Association at Concordia University,
the student association at Laval
University, the Campus Coalition of
Progressive McGill Students, and the
GrassRoots Association for Student
Power.

Several other student associa-
tions, including the Students' Society
of McGill University (SSMU) and
McGill's Post-Graduate Students'

Society (PGSS), decided against join-
ing CAPE, partly out of concern that
the demand for an end to corporate
influence may be going too far.

"The way it's phrased, it basically
eliminates any corporate presence
at all on campus. What we would
be calling for is a strict framework
around this issue," said PGSS President
Medhi El-Ouali, noting that PGSS
Council was also concerned that they
had not had enough time to consult
their constituents before the vote to
join CAPE.

In addition to the newer issues such
as federal transfer payments and cor-
porate influence, student leaders say
they continue to be concerned about
some unresolved issues from last
year's strike.

For instance, according to a report
from CFS-Q, the agreement reached at
the end of last year's strike expires in
2009/10, and there are no guarantees
that the government will continue
to invest \$103 million in bursaries
beyond that year. In addition, the pro-
vincial government has yet to reverse
certain reforms to Québec's financial
assistance programs that were insti-
tuted at the same time as the cuts to
bursaries.

With the prospect of an end to the
longstanding tuition freeze on Québec
tuition, students are also preparing
for another massive mobilization
effort against the provincial govern-
ment, hoping to build on some of
the momentum gathered during last
year's strike.

"The really interesting thing
about the tuition freeze is that so
many generations have fought for
tuition freezes—it's a much broader
societal issue," said Aaron Donny-
Clark, SSMU VP External Affairs and
President-elect. "I think that when
this discussion comes up again,
it'll involve more people than just
students."

U of T President condemns recent anti-Muslim acts

JOSHPHIN LEE
The Variety

TORONTO (CUP)—University of
Toronto President David Naylor issued
an official statement to the school's
governing council and the University
community last Thursday condemn-
ing a string of racist activities targeting
members of the Muslim community
that have occurred over the past few
weeks.

Naylor acknowledged four particular
incidents that have made "the current
environment difficult for members of
our Muslim community." He stressed
the need to clarify the "misinfor-
mation" that he said had accompanied
these incidents.

The four incidents included anti-
Islamic epithets yelled at a Muslim
student and her friend on 7 March, an
8 March incident in which eggs were
thrown at student union leaders, two
of whom were wearing hijabs; fliers
posted around campus on 9 March
showing one of the controversial
Danish cartoons of Mohammed; and
the hit-and-run on campus of a Somali
man on 20 March.

The president stressed that while the
hit-and-run did not directly involve
the University community, as neither
the victim nor the alleged assailant
were affiliated with the U of T, U of
T police were still quick to respond by
sending constables to escort attendees

after the meeting.

"Free expression is a cornerstone
of free academies in democratic
societies," Naylor wrote. "[But] the
University will not tolerate actions
that appear to rise to the level of a hate
crime."

Several professors of Near and
Middle Eastern civilizations, diaspora
and transnational studies, women and
gender studies, and other disciplines
subsequently issued a public statement
in response to the president.

"It is an important milestone to
tackle the increasing insecurity felt by
Muslims and those who appear to be
Muslims on this and other campuses
around Canada," said the statement.

The group proposed the creation
of "substantial policies" that would
combat Islamophobia, or anti-Muslim
hatred. They advocated a mechanism
allowing victims of the attacks "to
be spoken to in person, so that their
grievances may feed directly into the
university's wider response."

The U of T Students' Administrative
Council (SAC) welcomed Naylor's
statement, but was quick to criticize
the delay between it and the events
it responded to. It said the University
must issue a public response as quickly
as possible after such events.

"Until today, we have not seen any
public condemnation of the acts of
Islamophobia on our campuses," said
the organization in a statement.

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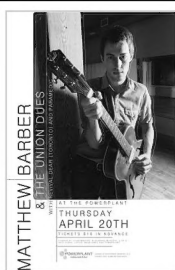
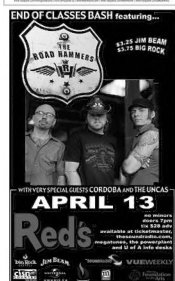
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SHOWS COMING UP

Commission rules Québec school must accommodate Muslim students

LIAM CHURCHILL
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—As members of the McGill community await a ruling on a human rights complaint against the University for failing to provide designated prayer space, Québec's human rights commission released a ruling yesterday on a similar case at Montréal's École de Technologie Supérieure (ETS).

The Commission found that the ETS administration's refusal to assign rooms for religious purposes was too strict and "incompatible with the duty of reasonable accommodation."

In April 2003, the Centre de recherche-action sur les relations raciales (CRARR) filed a complaint with the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, Québec's human rights commission, on behalf of 113 ETS students. CRARR contested the ETS administration's refusal to provide Muslim students with a private place to pray.

The CRARR complaint alleged that the actions of ETS violated sections three, four, ten, twelve, and 43 of Québec's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms by discriminating on the grounds of religion and ethnic or national origin, according to the Commission's report.

ETS's policy states that, as a "lay institution," it doesn't assign rooms for religious practices; however, the Commission ruled that this policy is incompatible with the school's duty to "allow students of the Muslim faith to pray, on a regular basis, in conditions that respect their right to the safeguard of their dignity."

The ruling also includes a provision recognizing that allocating a room for the practice of a single religion would be an "untrue hardship" and isn't the ideal resolution of the dispute. Another alternative is a multi-faith prayer space.

In addition, the Commission ruled that "the students concerned are entitled not to have to choose between their religious obligations and their attendance at a university such as the ETS."

ETS's insistence that it had no duty to provide religious students with space to pray is similar to McGill's position that, as a secular institution, it has no legal obligation to provide students with prayer space.

"The ruling talks about a duty to accommodate ... which leaves open the issue of what constitutes a duty to accommodate."

JENNIFER ROBINSON,
MCGILL SPOKESPERSON

Last December, the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) filed a complaint with the human rights commission on behalf of the McGill Muslim Students' Association (MSA), protesting the university's refusal to allocate prayer space for Muslim students after it evicted the MSA from a temporary prayer space last May.

Since then, the University has maintained that devout Muslim students, who are required to pray five times daily, can use empty classrooms as prayer space. The arrangement is similar to what had been offered to Muslim students at ETS, where Muslim students complained to the Commission that they were forced to change rooms regularly, because rooms not used for classes were often used by other students to study.

Representatives of both CAIR-CAN and the MSA were confident that yesterday's ruling would spur McGill to

reopen discussions about accommodating Muslim students, possibly with a multi-faith prayer space.

"We want to resolve this [dispute with McGill] before our own case comes before the Commission," said MSA President Nafay Choudhury. "Hopefully, this will be a jumpstart ... and a multi-faith prayer space can come back on the table."

However, in a statement, McGill Provost Anthony Masi said that although the University was studying the decision and how it could apply to McGill, McGill continues to believe that it has "no legal obligation to provide permanently dedicated prayer space to religious groups."

University spokesperson Jennifer Robinson said that the Commission's decision highlighted ETS's duty to accommodate its religious students.

"The ruling talks about a duty to accommodate ... which leaves open the issue of what constitutes a duty to accommodate," she said.

McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum said last week that the University hadn't developed a plan in case the Commission ruled that schools have a duty to accommodate the religious needs of students.

"Our contingency plan is no different than it was two years ago, which is one that would hope to see Muslim prayer space developed adjacent to our campuses, but not on our campuses ... with the support of communities," she said.

Robinson said that she had no idea about how long the University's review of the ruling would take.

The Commission ruling gives ETS 60 days to propose an accommodation to CRARR; it also notes that, although the duty of accommodation is incumbent on ETS, "the other party must collaborate and has a duty to facilitate the implementation of the proposal."

• With files from Josh Ginsberg

Illegal logging by UBC landscapers on nearby property triggers investigation

Greater Vancouver park mistaken for University property, UBC officials say

ERIC SZETO
The Ubsysy

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is investigating the unauthorized logging of its park property after discovering that University of British Columbia landscapers had removed almost an acre of parkland trees.

"We were quite upset," said Tom McComb, acting GVRD parks area manager. "As it has come to light, it's seen as an accident that occurred."

According to McComb, an estimated 60 to 80 trees were removed from the area behind the Museum of Anthropology sometime last week.

Geotechnical experts are looking into the potential environmental impact to the surrounding cliff area, but nothing conclusive will be put out until the report is finalized, McComb added.

The GVRD has in past cases issued up to \$50 000 in fines for illegal tree cuttings, but McComb refused to speculate on possible fines facing the University until a report is sent to the regional board.

UBC officials said the logging was completely accidental. The obscured

lines between UBC and the GVRD make it hard to determine where each property starts, said David Woodson, UBC Plant Operations associate director.

"There was no conscious effort to go out and willingly take [the trees] out," he said. "Obviously, we thought we were working on UBC land."

"I'm really disappointed with UBC's cavalier attitude to the park and the community that surrounds UBC"

DAVE FORSYTHE,
PACIFIC SPIRIT PARK SOCIETY CHAIR

He explained that many of the trees that were cut were contributing to soil looseness because they were either rotten or falling, and that in some cases, their removal added to cliff stability.

However, he did say that UBC fully intends to help restore the affected landscape.

Judy Williams, chair of the Wreck

Beach Preservation Society (WBPS) was incensed by UBC's actions.

"Nothing that UBC does would ever surprise me," Williams said. "I'm extremely disappointed in them."

"They know how delicate the cliff base is, how much it can be impacted by the disturbance of the upper layers of the cliff."

Dave Forsythe, Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS) chair, mirrored Williams' concerns, saying these actions are symptomatic of the University's attitude towards GVRD parklands and the environment.

"It's hard to believe that it was a mistake," said Forsythe. "I'm really disappointed with UBC's cavalier attitude to the park and the community that surrounds UBC. They just don't care."

News of the logging has also heightened existing tensions between UBC and PSPS and WBPS, who are both still upset over the height of the Marine Drive Towers located in the area.

"This is why this is such an embarrassing thing," said Woodson. "This is a high-profile end of the campus."

"The WBPS has their issues and this is doing nothing to help [that relationship]," he said. "It only hurts it."

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The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires a student-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term ending 30 April, 2007.

Applicants must be U of A undergraduate students and may not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Monday, 3 April, 2006 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by e-mail to adam@gateway.ualberta.ca, or through the campus mail to Adam Rozenhart, c/o Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though none is explicitly required).

OPINION

opinion@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 30 March, 2006

The importance of 'fuck,' 'fucked,' and 'fucking'

FUCK: it's a pretty powerful word. It's also one that gets thrown around a great deal in everyday conversation. For some, it's the ultimate exclamation point, an utterance so vile and harsh that it's only acceptable for a person to say it when they're feeling extreme pain or anger (and maybe pleasure—if stereotyping has taught me anything, it's that uptight conservative-types usually say things like "sugar" and "damn" instead of swearing, then bust out the potty-mouth when the lights go out). For others, it's a facet of their communication skills, a staple in their vocabulary's diet. It can take the place of punctuation, and can, in the same sentence, double as an adjective, a noun, an adverb or even an ellipsis.

My drawn-out and likely convoluted point is this: as crass and overused as it can be (trust me, I know—I write for the Gateway), "fuck" is the most important word in the English language. There are few other words that will grab the attention of a room full of people or the eyes of readers (it's unlikely that you'd still be reading this if I had opened by saying "dandelion") like the F-bomb can. As much as we all know, recognize and use the word, however, the majority of our mainstream media outlets like to pretend that we don't. Television channels not named HBO or Showcase gloss over it, and newspapers like to drop an [expletive] in its place when people are quoted saying it—and I can't figure out why.

At this point, we're not protecting anyone from hearing or reading something they haven't been exposed to before. If anything, we should be educated on how to use the word properly. The word "fuck" should be treated like a recreational drug: dabbling with it once in a while can make a good statement great, while using it to the point where it becomes a lexical crutch only makes people talk behind your back about how you're out of control and need to stop.

With my days at the Gateway winding down, I've seen more than my share of foul-mouthed writers who have run rampant through each section of this paper (an image of a kid being left home alone for the first time and running straight for the candy stash comes to mind). At the same time, few things brought me more joy in my job this year than having my interview subject throw the F-word down in the heat of the moment.

To me, the word "fuck," when used appropriately, is the most honest glimpse into a person's psyche that you can get. It's raw human emotion in the purest sense, and if you're lucky enough to have your interview subject say the word, there should be no reason why it shouldn't be reproduced for the public's consumption.

While it takes its share of flack from time to time for using it, newspapers like the Gateway, in my opinion, are at the forefront of realistic/true-to-form journalism. In that regard, wherever my writing career takes me, I'm going to have to living to give an angry athlete's code of words. In the interest of getting paid, though, I probably won't look back.

Fuckin' eh!

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

Tap me baby, one more time

PRO-LIFE ADVOCATES gained an unexpected ally on Tuesday, as artist Daniel Edwards released the life-sized sculpture "Monument to Pro-Life: The Birth of Sean Preston." It depicts a soft-skinned Britney Spears giving birth on all fours, a bearskin rug clutched seductively in her pelagic grasp.

According to Edwards, the work is a celebration of art and the feminine form, not a political statement or for against abortion. Putting aside the fact that she looks more like she's ready to take it "doggy-style" than give birth, the mere thought of Britney Spears as a mother should be enough to give even the most righteous pro-lifer pause.

MATT FREHNER
Photo Editor



LETTERS

Lettnier offers some sound advice for Prusakowski

Student leaders, especially in recent years, often suffer disproportionate criticism for their errors, and almost never receive appropriate kudos for their accomplishments. And so, near the close of what has been, in many ways, a significant year for your Students' Union, I'm thrilled to see members of my executive committee receive some truly well-deserved praise from Mr Prusakowski in his 23 March opinion piece, "Vice-presidents kept SU on rails." It has truly been a pleasure for me to get to work with these four talented individuals.

As for Mr Prusakowski's comments about me, I can say that, as train wrecks go, I'm pretty pleased with how this one has played up: the ten-year saga of the Travel CUTS lawsuit is, despite my slip-up, settled. The Board of Governors, through an important motion at its last meeting, has directed the administration to work with us on a consensus position on affordability.

We've also made important headway with how this one has played up: the ten-year saga of the Travel CUTS lawsuit is, despite my slip-up, settled. The Board of Governors, through an important motion at its last meeting, has directed the administration to work with us on a consensus position on affordability.

I wish I could take credit for all these accomplishments, but all I did was work to support a very talented group of vice-presidents as best I could. So, I'll take my jumpy for a few errors in judgment and wear my trainman's hat with pride—and with fond memories of the year.

GRAHAM LETTNIER
SU President

Military budgets should be spent more wisely

Mr Larocque argues that war zones are not the place for violence reduction by groups such as Christian Peacemaker Teams (Re: "War zones not the place to get in the way," 28 March).

While he points out that Iraq is a place where car bombings, assassinations and beheadings are commonplace, his analysis fails to ask why that is true.

Until we truly grapple with the root causes of so much violence instead of just throwing more violence at it, we will only be throwing oil onto the flames of suffering. Perhaps if the over \$5 trillion spent on militarism each year were spent on nonviolent ways to reduce violence and conflict, we would see less suffering and death.

WILLIAM PAYNE
Toronto, Ontario

Tu ne comprends pas le sarcasme

I am writing in response to the person who wrote into the 23 March issue in response to my alter-

natives for cleaner air (Re: "Walking from FAC not an option—don't ban cans and buses"), I wasn't serious in suggesting that the buses to the Faculté St Jean should be banned. I recognize the importance of your beloved "minibuses," which is one of the reasons I mentioned them in my letter.

The purpose of my letter was to demonstrate how ridiculous it would be to ban cigarettes on campus. Those buses and other vehicles that make student life more convenient create more air pollution than the small percentage of smokers on campus, and therefore are causing more damage to the lungs of the poor non-smokers who are forced to share the sidewalks with us. Je ne voulais pas mettre mes pieds dans le plat, je parlais seulement en plaisantant.

SARAH HOLMGREN
Arts III

Slaughtering innocent vegetables is wrong, too

In response to Jake Troughton's article ("I'm Fantastic: you, well, less so," 23 March) it's great that you think that to be fantastic, but better than the rest of us? I highly doubt it. You talk about your academic accomplishments, your vast appreciation for music in all forms and, of course, your ethical superiority.

If you think you're the first person to pass their classes without actually going, you might like to know that there are others who, like you, are passing and haven't even gone to receive their syllabi or buy the books they need.

As for music, anyone can make

a playlist containing great music from all genres. I, for instance, take pride in my iPod, which contains everything from the Woaherthans to Nightwish, and I only started listening to music after I could drive.

A vegan, though, that's quite an accomplishment. Of course, unless you're one of the few vegans who has chosen to eat nothing more than fallen bark and dirt, to me you're just a vegetarian who wants a cool-sounding title. You're like the 13-year-old "hardcore" skateboarders across my street who try to impress everyone with their kick-flips, and who complete the look by growing their hair long like rebels. It's true that I support the slaughter of animals for my dietary pleasure, but by eating those defenceless plants torn from the ground, I can't see how you're any better.

So, Troughton, I applaud your efforts in trying to convince us of how fantastic you are, but someone needs to bring you down and show that you're just not any better than the rest of us.

ALEXANDER FORBES
Education II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gatewayalberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Don't like the curfew? Don't be an idiot

There are better ways to get your message out than yelling 'discrimination'



CHRIS
KRAUSE

Remember that episode of the Simpsons where a curfew for children is imposed and the show climaxes in a song about how kids are misbehaved and adults try unfairly to oppress them? That was awesome. In an unrelated matter, the Strathcona County Council passed a controversial bylaw Monday that will keep children under 18 off the streets from Jan to June.

Did I say unrelated? I meant exactly the same. And, though I'm astonished that such an ill-conceived bylaw could be passed in the real world, it wasn't at all surprising to see the concerns of youth bulldozed by a group of "grown-ups" imposing their agenda.

There are countless issues that are important to teens and young adults—besides curfews, there's tuition, education, car insurance and social issues like smoking, gay marriage and racism, to name but a few. For many of these topics, young people have a unique and critical perspective. But to have this voice heard, teens (and youth in general) must learn to be effective advocates for themselves, and to do it in the face of significant obstacles.

Examples of such obstacles abound. A study commissioned by Strathcona County showed that 69 per cent of adults supported the curfew, but many news sources don't even mention the part about 83 per cent of teens opposing it. No one cares if teens don't like being legally confined to their homes. After all, did anybody expect that they would?

Teens' arguments that their "rights" are being violated, or that they are being "discriminated" against, are likewise used in these debates. Our society doesn't view young people as generally capable of making responsible decisions, and we've already decided that restricting their rights is an acceptable response to a problem—think of smoking, drinking and voting.

You're useless: make friends that matter. Young people don't carry a lot of clout. But parents, friends and school officials are all potential supporters of your cause ... Don't forget about police, lawyers and local politicians, either.

Another obstacle is apparent in this line from a *Journal* article: "Brendon Legault, 16, gets emotional when he talks about the bylaw." Burn! Although the article was relatively sympathetic to the views of the teens interviewed, jobs like this one reinforce stereotypes that teens and other young people are immature, volatile and even irrational. In the face of all this, how does a voteless, mercurial whiner like Brendon Legault (or, for that matter, a jobless, pinko slacker like me), get his voice heard? Here are a few suggestions:

Don't appeal to abstract ideas of justice or fairness. It will only sound childish or ignorant. Stick to the facts

or use good logic: why a curfew now, when property crimes and drug offenses are down 26 per cent? If the RCMP can't catch the bad kids, of what use is a law that punishes the good ones?

Look at the big picture: it doesn't matter if you and your buddies are law-abiding, just like it doesn't matter if some dude's tires got slashed. Emphasize that only rigorous assessments of overall patterns are important, like the study done by Stony Plain showing that most property crime occurred before midnight.

You're useless: make friends that matter. Young people don't carry a lot of clout. But parents, friends and school officials are all potential supporters of your cause. Not even Anita Ralston, whose son was murdered at a house party in Sherwood Park, supports the curfew as an effective crime deterrent. That's a powerful message. Don't forget about police, lawyers and local politicians, either. Strathcona County Mayor Cathy Olesen has been a strong advocate for youth during this debate.

Don't support the stereotypes: be calm and be straightforward. Pick only your most powerful arguments and repeat them to anyone who will listen in a reasonable and professional manner. Don't dilute your point with verbose rhetoric or emotional outbursts; leave that to parents, politicians, or other allies.

I'm not denying that youth can make bad decisions, or that they may lack the wisdom and maturity of their elders. But young people are uniquely disadvantaged when it comes to getting their views heard, even on issues that intimately affect them. If we can circumvent those obstacles, we might be able to prevent our agenda from getting swept off the table.

No discounts for seniors—no curfews for teens

ANDREW
NEWBORN



Some forms of discrimination have been fought with massive protests and social unrest, yet ageism persists, seemingly with wide acceptance. I suppose that's because martyrizing yourself in the fight against the discounts that seniors receive at restaurants isn't quite worthy of the cause. Still, when particularly blatant forms of ageism get brought up, such as the recently approved curfew for minors in Sherwood Park, discussion starts to happen.

It was only a few years ago that I was a minor living in Sherwood Park, and I can say with sincere conviction that my animalistic urges for late-night shenanigans have only increased since that time. That's why I can't help but feel sympathy for these so-called youngsters with regards to this bylaw, which establishes a curfew for minors between Jan and June.

It seems like a cliché at this point, and one that's well-known by anyone who's ever also been in this situation, but there's a significant lack of anything for a minor to do in Sherwood Park. My youth was spent playing video games late into the night at a friend's house, and then wandering home at some time that can only be described as ungodly. I wasn't drunk, vandalizing or starting fights, but simply

"I'm all for parental responsibility, but it seems to me that the best thing a parent could do for their teenage child is give them a little freedom ... It's also ironic when you consider that this bylaw would not only discriminate against youths, but would actually impede upon the parenting choices for the adults."

walking home. This wasn't the only way we found to entertain ourselves, of course. There was also late-night bowling or movie-going, followed by marathon doughnut-eating sessions at Tim Hortons, again concluding with a walk home.

While no one is going to be arrested for going for a 2am walk, parents of the minors breaking the law will be fined \$100 for the first offence, and \$200 for the second. What parents have to do with the nightlife of their 17-year-old children is beyond all understanding for me. At that age, that person wouldn't even be required to go to school anymore, and could legally live on their own. I guess you have to be careful—you never know what those restless independent teenagers are capable of after picking up their 7-Eleven bread.

I'm all for parental responsibility, but it seems to me that the best thing a parent could do for their teenage child is give them a little freedom. I probably would have lost my delicate grip on sanity if I had been forced to come home by 1am on weekends, and it certainly would have ended my already very limited physical activity by stopping all those late-night walks. It's also ironic when you consider that this

bylaw not only discriminates against youths, but actually impedes upon the parenting choices for the adults.

I'm also confident in saying that any kind of encounter with the police is a particularly traumatizing event for a lot of people. It certainly is for me, and would have been even more so when I was 17. Under this law, I suppose that, as a young-looking 21-year-old, I'll have to be wary of age checks myself, an additional impediment this bylaw would create for those of the age of majority.

It would be pointless to break out any statistics on youth crime rates right now. Even if all crime were committed by youth, this bylaw still infringes upon what should be a right for everyone. Not all minors are breaking existing laws when they go outside past 1am, and so there's no reason to punish all of them for those that do.

The fact that such a bylaw is even considered indicates that society is still wildly more accepting of ageism, as opposed to other forms of discrimination. If such a law were to be proposed based on sex or race, it would likely inspire militant resistance. I think the next time I'm in a restaurant, I'll demand my senior's discount.

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ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI

We've all faced days where hunkering down in bed and pulling the covers over our heads is a more attractive option than getting up to face the world. For most of us, it's the need to pee and eat, or the threats of our parents, that drives us out of bed and back into reality.

For the Students' Union, it's only Students' Council and students that have this coercive power. Alas, in recent years, both groups have been either too reluctant or too deferential to take on the SU's permanent bureaucracy and executive committee, and to pull the SU main office inhabitants back into reality. Having watched Council for three years, this has finally caused my faith in its ability to act as a check on the Executive Committee's power, and as an effective body to work for students, to reach low ebb.

But, just when it seemed that councilors had decided to indulge every scheme that the executive committee developed, the budget principles that will guide the SU for the next year landed on the agenda. While the principles presented to council on Tuesday night hardly contained earth-shattering ideas, the SU executive did allow for the continued sale of tobacco products on campus—an arrogant and disgraceful dismissal of student's views.

While it's hard to argue that the \$30 000 to \$50 000 brought to the SU offers from tobacco sales have been useful to the operating budget, it was an incredible sign of disrespect to the students that the SU is supposed to represent and serve. Just over two weeks ago, 60 per cent of

students who voted supported a ban on the sale and use of tobacco products on campus—yet the budget presented to council counted on these revenues to allow the SU to break even. True, the vote may have been a non-binding plebiscite, but the Executive committee and the Budget and Finance committee should still have respected the wishes of students.

However, thanks to a surprising show of principle from Students' Council—after it refused to take a position on this issue for the last eleven months—the will of students has been upheld. A large majority of councilors didn't crumble under President Lettner's warnings that this would force the SU to cut back spending and brushed off the libertarian position of Law council Kyle Kawawami (among others). This will force the SU to make some tough decisions, but shows that Council can be useful and important to students.

Councilors will have to continue to be courageous as they struggle to find extra revenue—or areas that can be cut—to make the budget work. It won't be easy, and they should shy away from increasing the SU membership fee to make up for the shortfall. No amount of extra revenue that could be generated by an increase would be able to repair the serious damage it would do the SU's credibility when it criticizes University plans to increase tuition.

In the course of the last year, councilors have worked and thought hard about how to reaffirm their place at the pinnacle of the SU. By amending the budget and rejecting the Executive's guidance, Council has entrenched their position, but also taken on responsibility.

It's going to be a difficult road, as Council must use their responsibility to find respectable, reasonable budget solutions. But, by showing that they're not afraid to pull the covers off the SU crowd, councilors are finally giving students effective representation.

Rockapella could redeem the 'Plant

The 'Plant's going down no matter what, so let's go out in style



PAUL
OWEN

You know, we're all sick and tired of hearing people talk about how the PowerPlant is losing money and how the SU should fix it. Frankly, I think that the 'Plant is going down and there's no point in trying to stop it. If anything, it's time we embrace its demise, and take it out in style.

Instead of wasting money "revitalizing" the bar and then reinvigorating it so that it's not really a bar anymore, it's time to forget about all that and just make it a fun place to go. Of course, the absolute key to this is good music. The problem with the music at the 'Plant is twofold: the first is that everyone has different tastes, and any band will be unable to fulfill the musical desires of the entire campus audience. The second problem is that no one new wants to play there. Hawksley Workman? No, thanks, saw him at Red's last weekend. Tupelo Honey? Sure, it's only their 18th time playing it since June. Jets to Theory? I don't even know who they are.

Instead, it's time to turn to the past and invite the greatest instrument-free band of all time to take the stage in the centre of campus to rock out like their name says they can: Rockapella. As hilarious as it would be to see five guys in their mid-30s dancing and jumping around on stage, it would be completely awesome to hear five guys in their mid-30s singing, "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" Their popularity is unmatched—just look at their current cross-country USA tour, playing predominantly on college and university campuses.

Hell, they even single-handedly made *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?* the kids' show most-watched by adults, and an Emmy award

winner. And, if that weren't enough, everyone likes a cappella bands, dating back to when HOVA showed up in their E350 van and played your junior high school. Need more proof? How about the popularity of the Blanks on TV's *Scrubs*?

Rockapella holds a novelty factor, eliminating problem two from the PowerPlant music problem list, and they're an a cappella group trained in the musical arts of knowing every song ever made. This means they can jump from Garth Brooks to Jay-Z, to their own original, TV-theme tunes. Hell, they could even do an entire nostalgic set based on ITV's afternoon line-up in 1994: *Duck Tales*, *Bonkers*, *Darkwing Duck* and *Tale Spin*.

... everyone likes a cappella bands, dating back to when HOVA showed up in their E350 van and played your junior high school.

Moreover, they're one of the most intelligent bands out there. They managed to take a show about geography and write an entertaining and clever theme song full of puns like, "stealing Seoul in South Korea, make Antarctica cry uncle." That's the sign of brilliance, my friends.

Beyond Rockapella, you could send an invite to the Dan Band, made famous by being in *Old School* and singing very girly songs in very dirty ways. They'd be cool too, but not as cool as Rockapella; those guys are so cool I'd like them to follow me around and provide the soundtrack for my life: the sad, Johnny Cash songs when I'm down, maybe a little Chumbawamba when I'm up—whatever they feel would fit, I trust them. The PowerPlant powersucks, and if they want to powersuck, they'd hire Rockapella. If they don't, they'll be powersquare. Yeah.

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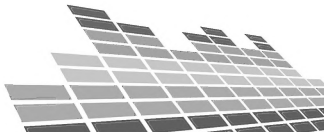
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Time for King Ralph's reign to end

Klein's support dwindling because of his antics—even among his supporters



ADAM
GAUMONT

If you're like me—that is, someone who has their grade ten—you probably aren't a big fan of Ralph Klein. But, since you're an Albertan, you probably voted for him anyway. This political paradox is a disturbingly common one in our province, but given poor old Ralph's deteriorating mental state, such party-based voting is becoming increasingly inadvisable.

I'm not so naïve as to question whether there's anyone who supports Klein's Progressive Conservative Party or its agenda. That said, it is truly baffling why anyone, even the staunchest PC supporter, would want him at the helm. Sure, his right-wing followers might like the fact that he stifles opposition and criticism, rules his party with an iron fist and stubbornly defends (or embarrasses, depending on how you look at it) our province from the evil Others. There are doubtless many who even share his views on homelessness and unemployment, and, when driving by homeless shelters, would have their drivers pull over so that they, too, could yell at residents to get a job and throw pocket change at their feet.

But Klein is also an under-educated, visionless, temperamental recovering alcoholic who throws books at teenage girls—and nobody likes to see that in a leader, not even other PC members.

As we have seen recently, support within the party is at an all-time low, and Klein's irrational and self-indulgent decision to announce a final, two-year farewell parade has done nothing to help this cause. The level of confidence that Klein's own Tories have in him will be revealed this weekend, as the party's Annual General Meeting will be held. A minority of support would trigger a leadership election, and while this is highly unlikely, many experts are calling for a significant departure from his usual 100 per cent status.

PC supporters have typically offered up such defenses as, 'Well, I don't particularly like Klein himself, but I support the party,' or, 'My life is comfortable, so I'm not one to complain.'

Another high-profile conservative politician whose approval rating has plummeted recently is George Bush. Bush, unlike Klein, has not been getting the results people want, and finds himself in more political hot water than Klein, despite his best efforts, ever could. Yet despite Bush's obvious failings, at least he possesses certain characteristics that may find appealing: for one thing, he's a strong, motivated leader, and his particular brand of down-home simplicity appeals greatly to Southern

Republican voters, the bedrock of his support. Of course, strong leadership, though perhaps a sufficient condition to run a country, is not the necessary one; after all, dictators and totalitarianism have traditionally been "strong leaders" as well.

Back here in Alberta, our fearless leader fortunately isn't savvy enough to establish a despotic regime. Somewhere along the line, however, Klein managed to rise to the top of the political heap, becoming leader of the PC party—and thus Premier by default in our province. Establishing himself early on, he managed to slash and burn Alberta's way out of debt at the expense of just about everything else; later on, after finding himself awash in a bounty of high-priced, high-demand natural resources, he suddenly became leader of the hottest economy in the country.

Given this prosperous state of affairs, PC supporters have typically offered up such defenses as, "Well, I don't particularly like Klein himself, but I support the party," or, "My life is comfortable, so I'm not one to complain." These are lame excuses, however, and only serve to deflect attention away from Klein himself. For the sad truth of the matter is that our province and our lifestyles could be even better if we had a different leader.

Klein's recent downfall has been a tragedy of King Lear-like proportions, only our King Ralph has few, if any, redeeming qualities, and hopes of repentance and character reform aren't looking so good. Instead, either the PC party must see the light and elect a new leader, or we'll be doomed to another two years of mediocrity and madness.

People knew how to have fun in the past



AMANDA
TERMEER

The 21st century is a breeding ground for rabbits of laziness, rats of consumerism and the flies of excess. In our recreational time we sit around, isolated in our houses, watching people be active on television. After a while, the pizza arrives. There's a binge, and then everyone goes back to staring at their kind of screen. During the commercial break, small talks breaks out, only to be interrupted by the talking screen. Everyone should feel satisfied and full, but after the food is gone, people question their actions and growing guts.

In the "olden" days, communities collaborated on projects like building barns. The men would hammer away, the women would cook and the children would play. Everyone was active, and the feast at the end of the day was well deserved. Along with earning the pasta, the community felt a sense of togetherness.

We used to consume food to survive. Now we've become blatant consumers. Whether food, clothes or movies are being purchased, most people feel a sense of accomplishment through shrinking their wallets, expanding their waists or collecting meaningless junk. Essentially, we only feel validated when we spend money or consume on some level.

Trying to be different is almost

"Are we really happy gorging on pizza while watching reruns of *Seinfeld*? Or are we unsure how to do anything else? We need to reach into the depths of our shrivelling imaginations and come up with ways to exist without spending money. Even going out for coffee requires money."

impossible, but easier on the credit card. For example, if a first date revolves around going on a walk instead of to dinner or a movie, the suitor will be considered cheap. The modern mating ritual has less to do with dance moves and more to do with the swipe of a credit card. We appear to have bought into the modern disease of consumerism—affluenza.

There are many reasons for this unfortunate outbreak. Our generation was based on organization. Everything from Little League baseball to Brownies cost money and was meticulously organized. From bingos to award ceremonies where everyone got a prize, our society was obsessed with details and equality. Children were put into hockey leagues instead of being sent to play in the park. Without the proper equipment, they'd be benched until their parents could fork over some cash for the required pads. We learned at a young age that the only way to be involved with recreational activities was to spend money, and as a result, our imaginations have been stunted.

Along with lousy imaginations, we're less happy in this consumerist world. 1957 was the year that the percentage of Americans describing themselves as "very happy" reached an all-time high. It's likely that the

Canadian experience is similar. Everything has gone downhill since. Coincidentally, since 1950, the amount of land in American communities devoted to public uses—parks, civic buildings, schools and churches—has decreased by one-fifth.

Are we really happy gorging on pizza while watching reruns of *Seinfeld*? Or are we unsure how to do anything else? We need to reach into the depths of our shrivelling imaginations and come up with ways to exist without spending money. Are there any easy answers? Even going out for coffee requires money. So does hitting the waterpark. Or seeing a movie. The solution is hidden behind piles of refuse, sewage systems and piles of bills.

Next time, instead of watching mind-numbing, spirit-crushing game shows, stuffing fucking junk food into your mouth, reconsider your life. Is it food you're after, or some deeper level of nourishment? Do most of your thrills revolve around seductively swiping your credit card? Filling psychological needs with material things just creates feelings of emptiness. Let's combat boredom by using another primal urge: Instead of craving nourishment from food, let's all have more sex. Instead of affluenza, we can all get herpes.

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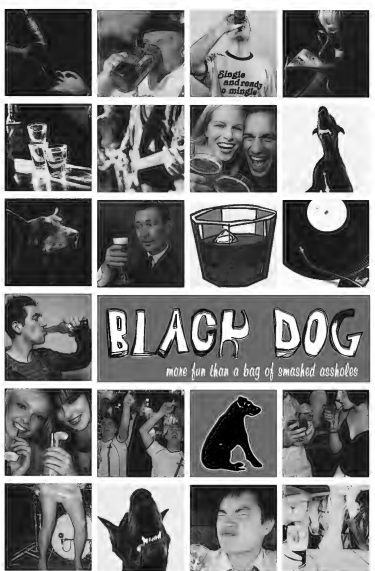
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Canada's faithful rock veterans keep on trooping

Trooper

Saturday, 1 April at 7pm
Red's

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Entertainment Editor

Classic Canadian rock bands are something of a rarity. There are only a handful that have lasted the decades needed to fit the category, and even fewer that play shows—or are even still together. Among those still playing, however, is Trooper, kings of the northern rock anthem and, as anyone who has been to a summer festival can attest, one of our countries oldest and most toured bands.

"We're road dogs, totally," declares Trooper frontman and founder Ramon "Ra" McGuire. "There are some bands that consider themselves so big that they can't play in small places, but if you're a Canadian band, that kind of limits the venues that you'll wind up doing a show at. It has always made sense to us to go out to play as many places as we can. We have more fun, we play for more people and it has always worked out well for us. We're not fond of days off—a day with a show at the end of it is always better than one without."

Given their history, it's really no wonder that Trooper can still draw crowds across the country. Performing since the 1960s, the band was signed and had their first record produced by The Guess Who's Randy Bachman after he attended a show. The band would go on to produce Canadian hits like "Baby Woncha Please Come Home," "Boy's in the Bright White Sport Car," "We're Here For a Good Time (Not a Long Time)," and what is probably their best-known track, "Raise a Little Hell."

Their songs have become embedded in Canadian culture, appearing at sporting events

and in Tim Hortons' commercials, and combined with the sheer number of shows played in a year, the group has aptly been described as "Canada's number-one party band." Listening to McGuire, it's easy to tell that Trooper embraces their part in Canadiana.

"I just did a week on National Playlist with Jian Ghomeshi on the CBC, and every show someone made a joke about raising hell, or being here for a good time and not a long time ... I was just thrilled to hear these things popping up."

RA MCGUIRE

"It's kind of subtle how it works," comments McGuire. "The name of the band doesn't get as much attention as the songs. When the Canadian Junior Hockey Team won the world championships, the first song they played was 'Raise a Little Hell.' So, we're kind of at everybody's grab, whether they want us or not. In a lot of ways we're more popular now than we were when we were making those hits—it's kind of a cool thing."

With close to over 40 years experience playing music, McGuire is among the most seasoned rock veterans, and casts a mature eye over his days on the road. Still heading out on tour for about 17 weeks of the year, McGuire has collected his thoughts and memories of the last few years of playing into a book, *Here For a Good Time*.



Comprised primarily of his blog entries over the last three and a half years, the book serves as a testament to the struggles and adventures musicians have on the road.

"A lot of it is talking about my day-to-day interaction with the eight people who take this thing on the road, and how that interfaces with the hundreds of thousands of people we play for over the course of a year," says McGuire. "It's a lot about Canada, and a lot about songwriting and trying to keep what I do fresh and real."

The real intent behind McGuire's writing will be, for most fans, an opportunity to look into the life of one of Canada's longest-serving

rock bands. Expressing gratitude and humility at being able to continue to play to crowds at 55 in the same bands he rocked with decades ago, only one question for Trooper remains. With so many hit songs rife for puns, has their tolerance for bad jokes lasted the test of time as well as their will to tour?

"I just did a week on National Playlist with Jian Ghomeshi on the CBC, and every show someone made a joke about raising hell, or being here for a good time and not a long time," laughs McGuire. "I was just thrilled to hear these things popping up. That people even think to use these things in conversation—it's awesome."

Trying to make a play out of an odd couple scenario



Trying

Directed by Dennis Gamhorn
Starring Frank Moore and Vanessa Holmes
Opens Thursday, 30 March
Citadel Theatre

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Entertainment Editor

The "odd couple" scenario has always played well in front of audiences. The general dysfunction of a mismatched pairing easily makes for quick comedy, but in the Citadel's upcoming production of *Trying*, the traditional setup will be given a dramatic edge in the story of a young Canadian woman working as a personal secretary for an aging American judge.

"Mainly it's about a young girl from Saskatchewan who comes to work for judge Francis Biddle, who's a cantankerous old man in his later years," says Vanessa Holmes, a BFA graduate from the University of Alberta and co-star of the play. "He's trying to get his memoirs together, as he's had such an amazing career as attorney general and a solicitor general, as well as sitting on the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal. It's about how two polar opposites meet and clash and learn from each other. They fight, but they also come to care about each other."

Although *Trying* might appear to portray a somewhat contrived state of affairs, the work by Canadian playwright Joanna McClelland Glass is in fact based on her own experiences as Biddle's last secretary before his death. While a two hour long play consisting primarily of conversations between come off as one-dimensional, Holmes sees the on-stage dynamic of the two characters as *Trying*'s most unique and appealing factor.

"I think the play really moves along and progresses in time as well," says Holmes. "I personally find relationships are one of the most engaging things on stage. Even though there are just two people, it's fascinating because if you have larger

cast you just get to see little snippets of relationships, but with only two people you get to see so many sides of them and get to see them go through so much together."

Holmes and Frank Moore, who plays Biddle, have indeed recognized the importance of this relationship. While most stage plays would have to work extensively to make sure that the "chemistry" is just right, Holmes admits that due to circumstance and a bit of luck, the relationship necessary between the two was already in place.

"Oh, we definitely had chemistry," laughs Holmes. "It's interesting that not only are the characters so different, but that the actors are, in this case, so different too. Just in the different ages—I won't say our ages, but I'm younger, he's older; he's from Toronto and I'm from Alberta. We are very different, like our characters, and both very strong willed, so we have this natural chemistry going in."

Despite being set in the 1960s and discussing issues going back even later than that, Holmes is confident that the play translates to a contemporary audience. One of Biddle's regrets was his involvement in the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII, and given the current controversy surrounding terrorism suspects in the United States, many of the same themes touched on in the play still apply today.

"It's still very relevant," says Holmes. "Francis Biddle wrote a book in the '60s called *The Fear of Freedom*, which was about how democracies often use fear to control society, which is in many ways what can be seen happening right now with the war or the bird flu."

Aside from political messages or even the dramatic, odd couple set up, Holmes sees *Trying* as a play worthy to see in its own right.

"Even though it's just two people, there's so much humour in it and so much life in it, and so much compassion," says Holmes. "It's heartfelt, but it doesn't tell you what to feel. It just lets you have your own experience."

You'll be waiting for the *Sunset*

The Sun

Directed by Alexander Sokurov
Starring Issey Ogata, Robert Dawson
Friday, 31 March—Monday,
3 April at 7pm
Metro Cinema

DANA KOMPERDO
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Historical war dramas are a popular genre: you have your standard heroes and villains, usually a clear protagonist, and almost always an unceasing barrage of action to keep audiences interested. Alexander Sokurov's *The Sun*, however, despite being set in Japan at the end of World War II, is nothing like your typical war movie.

The third installment of Sokurov's series of films studying the lives of men who have held complete power over a nation—the previous having been *Moloch*, following Hitler, and *Taurus*, which covered Lenin—*The Sun* centres on the life of Hirohito (Issey Ogata), the Japanese Emperor and professed descendant of the Japanese sun goddess, Amaterasu, during the summer of 1945.

When the climax of sorts is reached, it seems as though we have gotten there purely by luck rather than by a buildup of events, as there aren't really any events to be spoken of.

Historically, the events take place after Hirohito broadcasts orders to his troops to stop combat operation during WWII, allowing the Americans to land in Japan and ultimately leading to the country's occupation, as well as Hirohito facing charges as a war criminal. The climax of these developments is explored through Hirohito's meetings with American General Douglas MacArthur, which take place throughout the film.

The movie itself is essentially a study of choice days in Hirohito's life during the American landing and occupation of Japan. Being under house arrest, his time is spent mostly in his bunker with servants, and in a laboratory where he throws himself into the study of marine biology. He spends much of the film pondering



his existence and his status as—as he truly believes himself to be—a living god. Hirohito despises his status, and the fact that it has rendered him practically useless, with even such small tasks as opening doors being performed for him. Although surrounded by people, the emperor exudes a profound loneliness that is amplified by his wife and children being moved to the country to avoid danger.

The docile manner in which *The Sun* is presented—with very little background noise or music—both serves the film while working against it. While it almost undeniably pushes the movie towards being boring, the sparseness also helps convey Hirohito's despair and isolation. Still, Sokurov's attempt to show the Emperor as an ordinary man may have gone too far. Much of the film is stagnant, as Hirohito goes through the mental tasks and events that occupy everyone's days, like sleeping and eating.

This isn't to say that *The Sun* simply sets out to paint Hirohito as an everyman. Ogata portrays him as a complex

person who is well aware of the loss of lives he is responsible for. As well, Hirohito is shown as a man who is determined to stand up for himself in the shadow of the American general who also begins to understand *The Emperor*. However, it takes a long time to get to this stage of development as the film constantly seems about to start to go somewhere, but never actually finishes a thought—it just keeps going back to following the slow-moving Hirohito and his internal struggles. When the climax of sorts is reached, it seems as though we have gotten there purely by luck rather than by a buildup of events, as there aren't really any events to be spoken of.

To its credit, *The Sun* is a visually pleasing film, especially the scenes driving through the war-ravaged Tokyo, but ultimately it comes off as firmly unsatisfactory. The apparent absence of a plot and the tedious aspects of the story create a film that obviously means well, but fails in its delivery. *The Sun* aims to show a picture of absolute power, in which it is completely lacking.

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His Dudeness, Duder or The Dude, *The Big Lebowski's* unwitting hero returns to the big screen this weekend at The Metro

The Big Lebowski

Directed by Joel Coen
Starring Jeff Bridges, John Goodman,
Julianne Moore and Steve Buscemi
Saturday, 1 April at 9pm
Metro Cinema

STEVE SMITH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If rules are made to be broken, then *The Big Lebowski* is a masterpiece of fiction. While scholars of the genre frown on the use of coincidence to advance plot, the Coen brothers weave a tale that would never go anywhere were it not for staggeringly implausible turns of event over which the protagonists have no influence. While it's a generally accepted rule of writing that perfection is attained when there's nothing left to remove, the 1998 comedy includes scenes, characters and subplots motivated by, for example, nothing but the producers' apparent desire to include John Turturro or a surrealistic musical sequence featuring *The First Edition's* "Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was In)." The surprise is that this casual disregard for basic principles of fiction results in a movie that is both entertaining and well-crafted.

Reduced to its simplest level, *The Big Lebowski* tells the story of Jeffrey "The Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges), who's seeking restitution for a carpet of his that was defiled by goons trying to collect on debts owed by Bunny Lebowski (Tara Reid, in her simultaneous debut and peak), the

trophy wife of a millionaire named, by coincidence, Jeffrey Lebowski.

The Dude, we're told early in the film, is a lazy man: "Maybe the laziest in Los Angeles County, which would put him high in the running for laziest worldwide." Left to his own devices, the Dude would spend the entire movie lying on his floor, getting high and listening to past bowling triumphs on cassette. Fortunately for the audience, the Dude is never left to his own devices, with one major reason being Walter Sobchak (John Goodman), the Dude's bowling teammate whose service in Vietnam has left him with a warped world view and a penchant for resolving bowling disputes with guns.

The consistent thread running through the Dude's many misfortunes is that they originate from others' ambitions and intrigues—all the Dude ever wanted was his rug back.

On Walter's insistence, the Dude seeks out the other Lebowski (David Huddleston) to explain the situation and seek compensation for his rug. When Bunny is kidnapped, the Big Lebowski, believing that the culprits may have been the rug vandals, asks

the Dude to act as courier for the ransom, unleashing a series of events that involve a private eye (Jon Polito), two additional sets of goons, a 14-year-old car thief, the Big Lebowski's avant-garde daughter Maude (Julianne Moore) and pornography king Jackie Tredwell (Ben Gazzara).

If it sounds convoluted, it is; I needed to see the movie three times just to figure out the plot. But repeated viewings pay other dividends as well: the film's humour is sometimes subtle and specific, and the novice viewer will miss many of the jokes. For example, the Dude repeatedly appropriates lines from other characters, at one point telling an adversary that "This aggression will not stand, man," a line that the first President Bush can be heard saying on television early in the film. And only a classic rock fan will see the humour in *The Dude*, a laid-back Californian, being kicked out a cab for telling its driver, a recent African immigrant, that he hates the Eagles.

But this isn't an art house movie, and there's plenty for first-time *Lebowski* viewers to appreciate. The dialogue is punchy, the performances are universally excellent (with Goodman and Coen favourite Steve Buscemi as particular stand-outs) and for a film that's funny enough on its own, there's plenty of perfectly crafted physical humour. In fact, *The Big Lebowski* has very few shortcomings, and it's no surprise that it's achieved the status of cult classic.

The consistent thread running



through the Dude's many misfortunes is that they originate from others' ambitions and intrigues—all the Dude ever wanted was his rug back. A grizzled cowboy known only as "The Stranger" (Sam Elliot) who appears occasionally to provide narra-

tion, sums up the movie by saying, "I take comfort in knowing that there's somebody like the Dude out there, taking 'er easy for all us sinners." If laziness is a virtue and the Dude its patron saint, *The Big Lebowski* makes a pretty good gospel.

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Circles & Squares
with Veil Maker
Saturday, 1 April at 8pm
Velvet Underground

This Saturday might be dubbed as the infamous April Fools' Day, but that doesn't mean everything has to be a complete and utter joke. Seriously. Like, for example, Circles & Squares, an Edmonton-based rock band, is scheduled to play a show on this esteeming-torturing day, and it's not a lie.

According to their MySpace profile, Circles & Squares use "chemicals and flux capacitors to create sounds." Now, to be perfectly honest, I've never really heard a band's sound described as such, but it is nonetheless intriguing. The group apparently likes to experiment with "powdered feelings" and "crystallized intellect," so if you're looking for a little chemistry to come out of this weekend, make sure you catch Circles & Squares live. Worst-case scenario, this enigmatic band will make for a great story.

Get Up, Stand Up Benefit
with Chryshuga, Line Of Sight,
The Omega Theory, The
Getaway Music Band, Toxin, The
Goods and Illfit Outfit
Saturday, 1 April at 8pm
The PowerPlant

Although you might be itching to call your mom this Saturday and tell her you've lost your left leg to gangrene, polio, or some other obscure ailment, there are just some things that aren't a laughing matter: like benefit shows, for example.

Come this Saturday at the PowerPlant, the U of A Amnesty International Student Group is putting on a charity show entitled Get Up, Stand Up, and—wait for it—it's all for a good cause! By providing \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance, you will not only receive one heck of an entertaining evening, but you'll also sleep better at night knowing you've made a worthwhile contribution to humanity. Plus, by attending the show, you can tell your mom what a Good Samaritan you are, just so that your nasty little jokes don't convict you to eternal damnation.

Amanda's Soiree of the Year
with loads of famous people
Saturday, 1 April at 8pm
69 Sussex Drive

Yes, it's true: your esteemed Social Intercourse correspondent will be hosting a wine and cheese party for a few of her close celebrity friends this Saturday, so if you meet my standards of sophistication, you're welcome to step lightly through the 20-foot, ivory-carved front door of my prestigious residence.

Now, I must add that while my standards are often dubbed "unreasonable," I will be a little more flexible and allow all to participate in my soiree. To make my party sound even more irresistible, I will let it drop that there will be Playboy bunnies circling the pool area and an indoor banquet hall with fine edible delicacies, not to mention a sea of famous faces.

Also, while I'm not too fussy about the after-party messes, I would like you all to avoid spilling red wine on my carpet. It doesn't come out, and even if you promise to pay for carpet cleaning, I know you're lying. Heathers.

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff



THEY ALL LOVE THE SCENESTER On hiatus from Broken Social Scene, Jason Collett played solo at the PowerPlant Friday.

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The Elder Scrolls hold a tale of sleepless nights and burned retinas

The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion

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RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

When I was in junior high, I once played *Ureel Tournament* for 24 hours straight—including time for food and other minimal necessities. It was a very consuming game for me and, at the time, I never thought I'd find another that would make me want to give up one of the things I enjoy the most about life: sleep. That is, until I found *Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*. After four days of skipped classes and nine hours of sleep between them, I can honestly say that this game is one of the best role-playing games every made. Perhaps the sheer amount of time I've given this game has been a bit excessive, but without exaggeration, it's a hard game to stop playing.

Oblivion takes place in the land of Cyrodiil, in the heart of Tamriel, one of the continents of the *Elder Scrolls* universe. Keeping the spoilers to a minimum, the story begins with the death of King Uriel Septim (voiced by the always sexy Patrick Stewart) by assassins of an evil cult who are trying to take over Tamriel by opening a gate to Oblivion—a derelict and evil land on an alternate plane of existence. Your character is caught in the middle of all of this, and must now find out the truth about the cult, Oblivion and how your fate in the game ties into both.

For those who've never played an *Elder Scrolls* game, the series is

known for its complete freedom and non-linear design, and this is evident from the very first moments of *Oblivion*. Your character is almost completely customizable—you have eight different races to choose from, over a dozen pre-made classes and even a few birth signs to choose from that give you different bonuses. For the more experienced, or those who like to experiment, you can also create a custom class, using a seemingly endless combination of feats, abilities and skills. You can also customize the face of your character, though unfortunately you can't change their body-type, disappointing given the detail of all other character traits. Playing a bulky six-foot thief can be kind of obtrusive.

This customizability works great, as *Oblivion* actually lets you role-play—an element most other RPG games seem to have let go. Instead of giving a fairly linear story and gameplay while giving you the illusion of control by letting you customize limited features of your character's abilities, *Oblivion* lets you quite literally do whatever you want, whenever you want, however you want to do it—and a little under 200 hours of gameplay to do it in. You can be a complete "goody two-shoes," never picking a lock or stealing anything. Or you can do the complete opposite: murdering, thieving and being an all-around douchebag. By far my favourite thing so far is catching the "Vampire Disease," which, as the name suggest, turns you into a vampire. You lose health, are slower in sunlight and have night vision. The hundreds of NPCs in the game—each of which has their own distinct 24/7 schedule that varies day to day—react to every action you take. When you



close the first Oblivion Gate outside the city of Kvatch, its inhabitants will hail you as a hero. If you murder someone, rumors of your actions will spread across the land. There's no end to how immersive this game is.

This game also just looks incredibly amazing, no matter if your playing it on PC or Xbox 360. While the 360 version looks great in high definition, the PC version can look even better with a high-end graphics card, which you're definitely going to need in order to run this game. There are a few issues however. There's a lot of pop-in foliage and trees, and really low-resolution textures when viewing far-away places. Also, the facial

textures can be seen as weak when compared to games like *Half-Life 2*. For the most part, however, this game is definitely the next generation of graphics.

If there's one major fault to pick on, it's the game's AI. While the enemies are smart when they fight you, your allies are unfortunately not so bright. There will be times when you're in a dungeon with three or four allied NPCs and no way to control them, which means when they see an enemy and an obvious trap, they'll run right through it without any heed. Also, the "law" system is often inconsistent. There's no "friendly-fire" in the game, which means you

can attack any and all NPC's—even your allies—so if you accidentally hit an NPC who's a town guard, you'll be arrested without question. However, you can also sneak into a guy's house, wake him up, and have a conversation with this person without any consequences. These inconsistencies aren't a huge problem, but they do affect the overall feel and experience of the game.

Without question, *Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* is a game that everyone should play. There's so much to do here that you probably wouldn't get through it all even after your second play through. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to get some serious sleep.

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SPORTS

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Daum settling in to head coach position in Houston

Former Bears hockey coach enjoying his time with American Hockey League's Aeros; hasn't made decision on return to Alberta

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Despite being separated by thousands of kilometers, half a dozen hockey leagues and a culture gap that places university hockey on par with cricket, former Golden Bears head coach Rob Daum says he's managed to keep fairly close tabs on his old team. Though this news is unlikely to surprise anyone, given the fact he spent a decade at the helm of the program, there are other matters that are probably more important for Daum at the moment.

Currently based in Houston as the head coach of the American Hockey League's Houston Aeros—the top farm team of the National Hockey League's Minnesota Wild—Daum is technically halfway into a two-year leave of absence from the University of Alberta. However, having led the Aeros into the AHL's playoffs and received fine reviews for his work with the Wild's prospects, it's doubtful that Daum will be behind the bench in Clare Drake Arena anytime soon.

"I enjoyed my time at the University and I'm enjoying it here too," Daum said during a phone interview from Houston. "I really enjoy the challenges that [the AHL] presents and [the opportunity] came at a good time because I'd spent ten years at the University and a change was something I viewed positively. So far, it's been a very rewarding experience professionally because of all of the different challenges. Everything's new and different and that's revitalized me."

While he's optimistic about his team's chances in the playoffs after the AHL's regular season wraps up next weekend, the former two-time CIS Coach of the Year is unwilling to speculate about what the Wild think about the coaching job he's done this year. However, when asked about the Bears and Eric Thurston, his long-time assistant coach, Daum becomes more than willing to offer his praise.

"I think Eric's done an excellent job this year. Anytime you can coach a team to a national championship, that's a terrific achievement, especially given the fashion that the team did it," said Daum. "Knowing that they were going to host the tournament and still winning Canada West and being the number one ranked team going into the tournament [is impressive]."

"That's not the only thing you should evaluate anyone on, but it's a very good achievement to validate your coaching abilities. I'm very glad that the team has succeeded this season and I hope they continue to succeed as time goes on."

While this year has been a success for Daum, he admits the move to Houston has been tough on his family, especially for his 14-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son who have had trouble adjusting to life in Texas.

"That's never an easy time for kids to move," he said. "They had a very good life in Edmonton and they loved it there. It's taken time and it's still taking time, because Edmonton was a great place to live and to take them out of that and put them into such a different environment was difficult. Houston, with its weather and everything else, it's about as different a move as you can make."

Daum still has another year remaining on his leave from the University of Alberta and said while he plans to make the most of it with the Wild organization, he won't forget about the Bears. However, he does say that when it comes time to decide whether to return to Alberta or to continue working in the AHL, it will be a decision based on his job opportunities and his family's needs, and not on how the Bears program is performing.

"If the program wasn't doing well, that wouldn't mean I'd have to come back and save it," said Daum. "I'll have to sit down [when my leave expires] and make the best decision for my career and family at that point in time. The state of the Bears wouldn't be something that would factor in."



STILL GOT IT Former Bears coach Rob Daum has done an impressive job with the Houston Aeros

Campus Security hopes to handcuff Listerites in charity hockey battle



READY TO RUMBLE Campus 5-0 constable Marcel Roth will be all business when the puck drops.

EDMON ROTH
Sports Staff

Rather than engage in an intense standoff on campus, Campus Security Services and Lister Hall residents will engage in an intense faceoff on ice—all for a charitable cause.

Clare Drake Arena will play host to the second annual CPS Charity Classic. The event will pit Campus Security Services' 5-0 team against the reigning Lister Hall victors, as they battle for the prestigious title of Charity Classic Champions.

"The CPS charity classic is a great form of awareness for the Campus Food Bank (CFB). It reaches students at Lister hall all year round, letting them know that we are here for them. It's also a great way of letting all of the campus know about us," said David Feldman, Executive Director of the CFB. Last year's event, which also included a barbecue leading up to the big game, garnered many food donations and raised over \$2000 for the charity—and CFB volunteers, Lister Hall, and Campus Security hope to maintain the momentum this year.

After last year's defeat to Lister Hall, the Campus 5-0 team has a slough of new strategies and tactics to overtake their younger counterparts. With a roster that's literally composed of novice players to real-life sharp-shooting "snipers," the Lister Hall team is up against a strong adversary this year.

"We plan to take down the names and addresses of every Lister player who scores a goal, so that we may pay him/her a visit from time-to-time—'thanking' them for their on-ice 'contribution,'" joked Sergeant Marcel Roth, an organizer for this year's event.

"Seriously though, we plan to keep things

simple and rely heavily on our goaltending. We also hope that the threat to tow the referee's car helps us in getting some much-needed power-play time."

Aside from goaltending, the Campus 5-0 roster of players will also include a few surprises this year. "We're a co-ed team as well," said Roth. "Last year, we had two ladies on our team and this year we'll have one. We are hoping that Lister will come in with a co-ed team too."

When asked about the possibility of playing other student groups or organizations, Roth remains enthusiastic of exclusively competing with Lister Hall. "We wanted to play hockey and wanted the opportunity to draw from a large fan base. Both of those ideals pointed us towards Lister because they have a strong history of hockey and a large group of fans—the residents—within walking distance of Clare Drake Arena," explained Roth. "We also believed that there was a perceived rivalry between Campus Security Services and Lister Residence, which might help with the fan turnout."

While there can only be one victor, it will be a win-win situation for everyone who participates or attends the Charity Classic. Besides enjoying a great game of hockey, everyone involved helps out the CFB and those in need.

"We hope that professors and administrators hear about us from this event and are able to refer individuals that need our help to the CFB," said Feldman.

The puck is slated to drop at 8:15pm this Friday. Admission is only \$2 at the door and a 50/50 draw will be held. All attendees are also encouraged to bring a food donation for the CFB.

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WHL in Edmonton could succeed



NICK
FROST

Sports
Commentary

Though some in the past have tried to pull off bringing a second major hockey franchise to Edmonton, the result has typically been met with multiple struggles and, ultimately, failure. Think back to the mid-'90s and you may recall the Western Hockey League (WHL)'s somewhat-embarrassing Edmonton Ice, whose lack of on-ice production in their two-year run drew less people to the run-down Agrium than a Wham! reunion tour. Fast forward to 2004, when the American Hockey League (AHL) brought the Edmonton Roadrunners to the forefront during the NHL lockout. Though the crowds at Rexall were relatively decent for an AHL franchise, the team still decided to shut down operations after only their first season in Edmonton. You'd think that people would've given up by now on trying to integrate a second hockey team into this city. Clearly they just don't want to. Two years from now, Edmonton will once again have a shot at a second team.

On 16 March, commissioner Ron Robison announced that the WHL had conditionally granted Edmonton a franchise to begin play at the start of the 2007/08 season. The Edmonton Investors Group (EIG), otherwise known as the 30-or-so people who own the Edmonton Oilers, will own and operate the franchise.

With the Oilers heading the operation, there is a sense of optimism that things might actually work out this time around. The successes of both the Calgary Hitmen and, more recently, the Vancouver Giants, have proven that junior hockey can both survive and thrive in metropolitan cities primarily dominated by NHL hockey. A look at the attendance figures tells a convincing story: in 2004/05, the Hitmen averaged around

10 000 fans per game, while Vancouver averaged around 8400. That's about half of an average NHL game and, sadly enough, about as much as an Edmonton Roadrunners crowd. If Edmontonians are willing to hop onto the bandwagon and actually come out to games, this franchise will have no problem keeping its balance.

One of the biggest issues that the Edmonton Ice had to deal with in their time in the WHL was not having full cooperation with the Oilers. It might have been with good reason, too—after all, that was around the time that Peter Pocklington was looking to sell the Oilers to Hicksville, USA. The end result was an unpopular junior team with no real support system, be it financial or in terms of fan support, due to little exposure and playing in a less-than-suitable arena. It wasn't until after the Ice left Edmonton and moved to Cranbrook that they started to ascend in popularity and success.

Having the Oilers at the helm will undoubtedly help the new WHL team gain credibility and stability. The EIG's assistance in marketing and promoting the franchise will not only give them the proper exposure, but also give them an edge over other markets that aren't fortunate enough to have the backing of an NHL franchise. In turn, the Oilers will benefit from an extra stream of revenue—something that will assist with the team's always uncertain financial stability, as well as their ability to sign quality players and make any necessary upgrades to keep them at Rexall Place until a new downtown arena becomes a feasible projection.

While the Oilers can provide financial stability and marketing power, the rest of the responsibility of success will be in the hands of the fans to actually show up to games, unlike the last time around. The casual fan can view it this way: the cost of sitting at a WHL game will be cheaper than the \$35 it costs to sit in the nosebleeds, you'll be supporting hockey closer to the grassroots level and it will provide another addition to the Battle of Alberta for you to get psyched about. Plus, junior hockey can be just as exciting as professional hockey, and it's Todd Bertuzzi-free. That's all the reason I need.

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Funding doesn't add up in women's athletics

Women's sports programs still stuck taking a back seat to male counterparts

JULIE SOBOWALE
The Lance

WINDSOR (CUP)—They may play the same amount of games in a season in their respective sports, but when it comes to equality in sports, that's pretty much where the similarities between men's and women's programs end. Marge Holman, the University of Windsor's long-time advocate for women's sport, sees the need to improve women's sport in Canada. Holman was one of the first female university sport's directors in Ontario in the 1970s.

"There's still a huge amount to be done, because we're still a long way from having equitable programs for our females compared to our males," Holman said. "Yes, things have improved dramatically, but mainly at the participatory level, where we're a little more sensitive to providing more equal opportunities for females."

Last spring, Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) released a report outlining the equitable practices of the sport departments in Canadian universities. Surveying over 40 member universities, CIS found progress has been made, but there is room for improvement.

Many members reported that their institutions have clear employment equity statements and have systems in place for equitable allocation of resources. Eighty-four per cent of the schools reported equitable modes of team travel, 79 per cent in equipment needs, and 72 per cent in exhibition competition opportunities.

According to Holman, giving equitable funds in this manner only shows part of the overall situation.

"Our women are subsidizing the men in terms of student fees," Holman

said. "It's shown in the opportunities available to them and the quality of those opportunities. When I talk about quality, they'll say meal money is the same, travel arrangements are the same, but there are still some discrepancies in coaching; there are still some discrepancies in schedules and the real big one that's not tangible are the discrepancies in treatment."

This may be true, as the CIS survey revealed the growing problem of fundraising and alumni contribution for women's sport. According to the report, only 47 per cent of the respondents reported to have achieved equitable allocation of athletic financial awards, while 37 per cent of universities report the equitable provision of athletic financial awards as a future goal.

The report cites men's teams as having the ability to generate more athletic awards than women's teams due to their longer histories and larger base of alumni and community support. Lisen Moore, manager of intercollegiate sports at McGill University, believes the problem in alumni funding may lie in the way women donate funds compared to men.

"I think that women are pulled in different directions in terms of donating to different groups, such as the United Way or the Cancer Society," Moore said. "I think that maybe women don't usually consider giving back to their university. Compared to men, who traditionally give on an annual basis. I think women just pick and choose differently."

This problem is further exacerbated by the lack of women working within marketing and promotions at universities. Only 49 per cent of the schools reported in achieving equity in their marketing and promotions

department, with the majority of schools reporting that their time is focused on the teams that attract the most fans.

While this may be a valid argument, there is a danger in neglecting female sports.

"When we talk about marketing and promotions of programs, the marketing and promotions still goes toward the male programs," Holman said. "Football and men's basketball will promote themselves. We don't need to put any energies into their promotion and the more energy we put into their promotion, the wider the gap, not just between males and females, but also between those males and other males and females."

One of the major issues facing women's sport teams involves attendance. Traditionally popular sports such as football, men's hockey and men's basketball usually don't have a problem with funding, partially because of their strong attendance records.

"Corporate and media support is driven by attendance," said Ross Wilson, athletic director at the University of Saskatchewan. "If women supported female teams in greater numbers, there would be increased exposure and increased external financial aid."

Some Canadian universities have already implemented initiatives to help resolve the funding shortfall. Gerda Wilson, the University of Toronto, McMaster University and the University of Waterloo allocated special funds for the enhancement of women's sport programs. Perhaps not coincidentally, McMaster University and the University of Waterloo are among less than a dozen universities in Canada with a female sports director.

Maple Leafs-heavy media will be lost come playoffs



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports
Commentary

With the National Hockey League in the midst of a playoff drive the likes of which has never been seen, and games proving to be as exciting as ever, it's hard to dispute that last season's lockout proved to be a good thing. For fans, the game is better than it has been in a long time, and for players and owners, there's a chance to grow the game and fairly share the profits. While these are just a handful of things that the year-long layoff have helped fix, there is one problem that it seems even the lockout couldn't cure—the inexplicable ability of the Toronto Maple Leafs to dominate the headlines across the country.

Just a year ago, when the cancellation of the season was still painfully fresh for fans, it was at least a communal pain shared by fans of every team, regardless of budget. For fans of Canadian teams other than the Leafs, there was also another redeeming factor that, though it took a cancellation of a season to do it, their teams were finally more important than the behemoth that is the Leafs.

For the remainder of the lockout, the major media were aware and focused on the issues and problems in the smaller markets that forced the cancellation of an entire season. Fans outside

the centre of the media universe had their trampled spirits slightly uplifted as they saw hope that their teams would receive more coverage when the game returned. Alas, when the game made its return, that hope turned out to be misplaced. The new NHL brought with it the return of Leafs-centric coverage, where even the slightest hint of team turmoil could edge out the coverage of news events on the *Globe and Mail's* front page.

For fans of Canadian teams other than the Leafs, there was also another redeeming factor that, though it took a cancellation of a season to do it, their teams were finally more important than the behemoth that is the Leafs.

Regrettably, while it is indisputable that Toronto is the largest city in Canada, and that Ontario had 37.9 per cent of Canada's population at last count, population isn't an excuse for the Leafs' coverage. CBC, The Score and TSN have been force-feeding us an inordinate amount of Toronto this season. The networks need to wake up to the fact that the Original Six

era has long since passed, and that not everyone outside of Québec—let alone everyone in Ontario—supports the Leafs. In fact, disdain for the team has been the strongest source of national unity since the time of Laurier.

True, by continuing to be obsessed with every Leaf move, these media outlets and their national newspaper compatriots are serving a large portion of the population. However, to look at the ratings and readership numbers and take them to mean people care about Toronto's team is wrong. Thanks to a year without NHL hockey, exciting playoff races and a fortunate time zone, the Leafs are the only hockey that the majority of the nation can follow.

However, with the Leafs set to be booking tee-times once the playoffs start, the media will come to regret their relentless stroking of the team they love, as they'll be forced to reduce their attention and in turn will struggle to appreciate and communicate the good aspects of the teams they've neglected since October.

After a year of paying scant attention to Canada's five other teams, expect the big media outlets to repeat stories that fans of these teams are already painfully familiar with. At least these fans will be able to take solace in the fact that their teams will likely make lengthy runs into the post-season and that the regular season managed to accomplish something the lockout couldn't—the death of wall-to-wall Leafs coverage, even if only for a few weeks.

Student Distress Centre

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“Another important thing to remember is to fit in. Always sleep with a textbook on your chest. Put a pen in your mouth, unless you’re worried about choking. As long as you have a textbook and don’t look like a bum, no one will bother you.”



Feature by Victor Vargas
and Tim Peppin

Photos by Erinne Fenwick

Survival of the Cheapest

Worried that your Mac and Cheese stash won't last you till the end of the term? Fear not. Two Gateway writers have found a way to survive cheaply on campus. In fact, it's so cheap, it's free! Mind you, the following sneaky tricks may or may not be entirely legal and following it might get you in a lot of troubles, so the Gateway condones nothing. Prepare to Appear in our Crime Beat section come Tuesday if you try.

Every year I hear about new strategies that the Students' Union and others come up with to try to keep tuition fees down, but every year living on campus gets a little tougher, and our pockets are stretched a little further. We're forced to get jobs to try to subsidize our education and pay for our rent. Hopeless, I say! At least until I realized that I didn't have to do any of these things. I didn't have to pay for rent. I didn't have to pay for classes. I didn't even have to pay for food.

Believe it or not, it's possible to live and learn on campus for free. You don't even need to own a ONECard or to be a student. All you need is cunning, a bit of improvisation and the will to do it. And a robust digestive system. You'll be eating, but you won't be eating well.

Survival

Your first concern is probably going to be where to sleep. Happily, our benevolent Students' Union has provided people with a 24-hour study space that will also double as your main sleeping quarters. However, the building services staff are both clever and watchful, so you'll need to be sneaky. Don't sleep in SUB every night. When you do sleep there, don't sleep in the same place. Keep them guessing. There are lots of other great spots. The old Arts building has couches; the walkway between SUB and Ag/For does, too. Most stairwells aren't checked, and if you're on the second floor or higher in any building, you're likely only to encounter profs and grad students. Here, your concern is that they might recognize you, so always sleep in buildings other than those of your chosen faculty.

Another important thing to remember is to fit in. Always sleep with a textbook on your chest. Put a pen in your mouth, unless you're worried about choking. As long as you have a textbook and don't look like a bum, no one will bother you. If you need a textbook, just take one from the free cart at Sub Mart.

However, if your body odour becomes strong enough that security can locate you by smell, you may be questioned. Therefore, showering and personal hygiene are the key to remaining unmolessted. Fortunately, there's a public shower in the bathroom of the fourth floor Education North Building, complete with a lockable stall, and both hot and cold water: NO NECard required. If other people catch on and it happens to be occupied, you can shower in the Chem West basement, or use the shower rooms by the Butterdome pool.

Eventually, because you'll be sleeping in them, your clothes are going to get dirty and worn out. Remember, keep smells to a minimum. Washing your clothes is as simple as finding a bathroom—the University provides soap, running water and a washbasin (sink) for free in every washroom! Clothing can be dried

outside during the summer, or on any of the hundreds of radiators in University buildings. Keeping clothes clean is a bit of a challenge, but not impossible. The best way to get the most out of your clothes is to avoid situations where you might sweat.

Clothing and other useful items can be found at the "Free Table" event held by ECOS during "Buy Nothing Week" every November, and can also be obtained from Salvation Army Boxes. It's worth noting that, being a Christian organization, no one's around the piles of clothing left outside the Whyte Ave Salvation Army store on Sundays.

You'll start to get hungry, but never fear—there's lots of free food available on campus, as long as you have an open mind and are willing to spend time pursuing it. For instance, there are plenty of events on campus where free food is available—it's just a matter of knowing where to look. There are loads of organization meetings and guest lecturers on campus, and many of them provide free food for attendees. Several student groups also provide opportunity to get free food. For example, the United Church Students hold a free dinner on Tuesdays. Just keep your eye on the bulletin boards and ask around and you'll be able to find your meals. Hanging around the Lister cafeteria can also be a great way to score some food, but more on that later.

If you're feeling a little more ambitious, there are also a lot of birds and small mammals on campus. By befriending mammology students, you can get your hands on some very effective rodent traps—or meal boxes, as you'll come to know them. However, when hunting animals, it's very important to be discreet. Don't let anyone know what you're up to, and use the microwaves in SUB, CAB, Fac, Education or Phys Ed and Rec to cook them.

At some point you'll probably want to store some of your stuff somewhere safe. The best free way to accomplish this is to put your stuff into some kind of container with your name on it, and turn it into a campus lost and found. When you need it, just retrieve it from the lost and found, and then turn it in to another one. Just be careful to find out beforehand how long things are kept in the lost and found, and where they're sent if they're past the deadline. Remember, every faculty has its own lost and found system, and if it's not there, it's usually turned over to campus security. Keep switching lost and founds and no questions will be asked.

Because your life shouldn't be limited to mere survival and study, you should also seek out free entertainment on campus. There are the free movies in SUB on Tuesdays—where they also serve free popcorn—but there are also TV and movie nights in Lister; free lectures across campus and public events like Logger Sports. You can also go to see the practices of U of A bands and sports teams, and if you get to know

some of the members, might even be able to get in to games and concerts.

There are some times, regrettably, when you will either need or want to use money. Purchasing a proper meal, printing and washing your clothes in an actual machine are all luxuries you may want. Fortunately, small amounts of money are available for very little work, as long as you are willing to whore yourself out to researchers. Every bulletin board on campus usually has the a few posters like, "Desperate and insane U of A researcher wanting to build mind control ray: \$10 to fill out a short questionnaire." Remember to apply to all of them and you're set.

To get to a restaurant, theatre or laundromat you're going to need some means of transportation. Security on buses is tight, but incredibly lax on the LRT, so plan your stops accordingly. If you feel like some exercise, ECOS provides bikes that you can take for free. Just make sure you don't sweat too much.

Listerites

One of the most effective things you can do to make your free stay more comfortable is to befriend Listerites as quickly as possible. Lister Hall is a cozy, comfortable nest, useful to you in many ways. Not only can you sleep in their rooms to confuse building services, but most Listerites have phones and computers, meaning you can place calls, check your e-mail, and, though you shouldn't submit them, type papers. They can also usher you in to the cafeteria, where you'll be free to scavenge from abandoned plates.

If your friendship with a Listerite should ever move further, it's worth noting that the Peer Health Educators give out free condoms.

Free Education

Having established yourself on campus, you can now pursue the dream of a free education. You don't have to be like those losers that pay thousands of dollars for their knowledge. Instead, you can get the same knowledge for free. You won't get an actual degree, but if you can prove your competence, it really won't matter.

A good number of lectures you can sit in on and listen to for free. Few, if any, professors would ever notice you, or even care if they did. Just be sure to stay quiet, to avoid asking questions, and to not hand in any assignments or write any exams. You should go undetected.

For assignments, just copy them down and prepare to do them. Most of the textbooks are available in the library (while you can't take them out, you can still view them inside), and you can do them there. Professors usually post the answers for the assignments on a bulletin board, office door or website, so you can

verify your work there. If you can't find a current textbook, you can always take an old one and work through those problems—a bit more problematic, but still possible.

The same works for exams. The Students' Union has a lot of old exams available online, along with their respective answer keys. You don't have access to them unless you're a student, but just make some friends and someone should be able to print out a few of those exams and answer keys for you. Again, Listerites are invaluable.

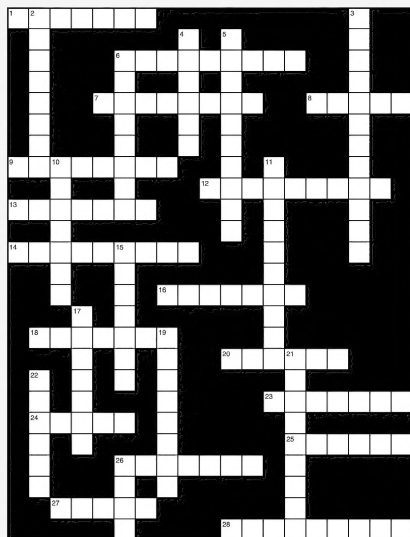
Arts courses are bit trickier to pull off, as their class sizes tend to be smaller, and many of them require essays. Fortunately, most of the information from these courses can be gained by reading the suggested material. Just get ahold of the reading lists and all the books should be available at the public or University libraries.

Essays are also a bit trickier, as you can't hand them in to be marked. Your best bet is to write up the drafts and find out when various professors hold their office hours. Some professors are bored during their office hours, and would be glad for the chance to give you a critique, or to help you with your draft. If you're nervous, you may want to try the "fib" that you were their student a couple of years ago, and still value their opinions. If you're going to do this, though, do research first—find out what their interests were, what classes they taught, and that they were actually at the U of A before attempting.

A lot of education around the University is based around computers and the Internet. Because even the nicest of Listerites will get annoyed if you're on their computer for hours at a time, adequate Internet access can be tricky, but not an impossible feat for you to achieve. All you need to do is form, and be part of, a student group's inner circle. Every student group is allowed one non-university student on their executive or staff, and every student group requires a membership of ten people. The key here is to gather enough of your university friends together to form your group—you can call it the "Egomaniacs and Megalomaniacs Club for World Domination." The point is that every student group gains a valid Campus Computing ID and website, which you can then use for your personal Internet access and hard-drive space.

Granted, this way of life has its downsides. You may have the knowledge, but you don't have the \$20 000 degree, and you may be a little malnourished. However, the advantage is you don't have the stress of having to work, no massive debts to worry about and you have the time to experience all the things on campus other people miss out on. You can go to free movie nights, a lot of fun and informative non-profit events and even volunteer. Some non-profit groups and volunteer organizations won't ask for a student ID number, or will have ways around it. For instance, the Gateway doesn't ask for an ID number when you write an article.

CROSSWORD



The Filmword: compiled by Scott C. Bourgeois. The Crossword runs on most Thursdays with the answer available at www.gatewayualberta.ca

Across

1. A medium close-up shot of two subjects, usually framed from the chest up.
6. As shot composed with the horizon not parallel with the bottom of the frame (two words).
7. The first official public screening of a film.
8. A small explosive device used to simulate a bullet or puncture wound.
9. An on set person who supplies actors with the correct lines from the script should they forget.
12. Term coined by Sam Raimi to refer to a stand in whose face is never seen and who has no lines (two words).
13. A small, unimportant role. Usually lasts only one scene (two words).
14. A small board which holds information identifying a shot, filmed at the beginning of a take.
16. Term for a young actress, or a type of role played by a young actress; that of a young, fresh faced, and naive character.
18. A movie that presents the characters or events chronologically before the events of another film.

20. Term for a set that has been prepared by set dressers and prop persons, and should not be disturbed (two words).
23. The start of production or principal photography.
24. The musical component of a movies soundtrack.
25. Head of the electrical department, responsible for the design and execution of the lighting plan.
26. Historically, the word extras are told to mumble in the background to create the sound of background conversation.
27. The art of recreating incidental sound effects in synchronization with the visual component of the movie.
28. A term coined by Alfred Hitchcock to refer to an item, event or piece of knowledge that is of vital importance to the characters in the movie, but which the audience doesn't know or care about.

Down

2. A person on set who is responsible for the care and control of entities that cannot be spoken with.
3. The process used to adjust the final print so that the colours match from shot to shot (two words).

4. The word shouted to indicate the start of the current take.
5. A sequence of pictures created by a production illustrator to indicate the desired appearance of a scene.
6. The principal creative artist on a movie set.
10. A take or scene that is not used in the movie.
11. A small, subordinate crew responsible for filming shots of less importance, such as inserts and crowd shots (two words).
15. An artist who colours the individual cells of an animated film.
17. Term for the chief assistant, usually of the gaffer or key grip (two words).
19. A direction given by the assistant director, informing everyone and preventing anyone from interrupting a shot (three words).
21. The crew responsible for the construction and take down of a set (two words).
22. The first positive prints made from the negatives of the previous day's shots.
26. A strip of film wound on a metal wheel.

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Ashley, the student medical services assistant who took my stool samples, you are very cute—love that teeny little nose piercing. But the circumstances of our meeting were

admittedly a bit awkward. I was beyond sick, so sick the doctor was giving me cipro, and I had to drop off stool samples to you. I am sure those samples revealed a man of strong body fighting off the fiercest intestinal parasites I know, I know, when travelling abroad, do not drink the water! I get it now. But I have fully recovered. On the plus side, I'm ten pounds lighter and looking great. The parasite weight loss plan. Perhaps dinner to show off pictures of my world travels? American cuisine only for now. I hope you understand. If you read this, please give me a shout. ashleytash@gmail.com.

Chester: I gave you a plate of brn muffins to paint my chicken coop, and it never happened. I don't care if they were lazy. Paint my chicken coop! -Kouty

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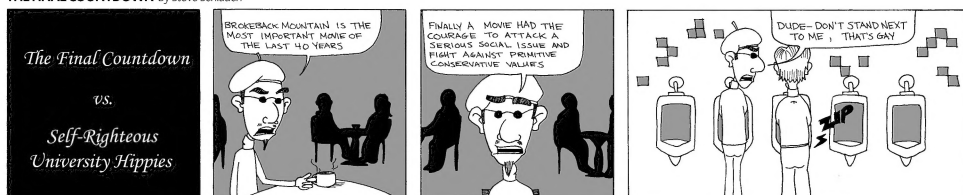
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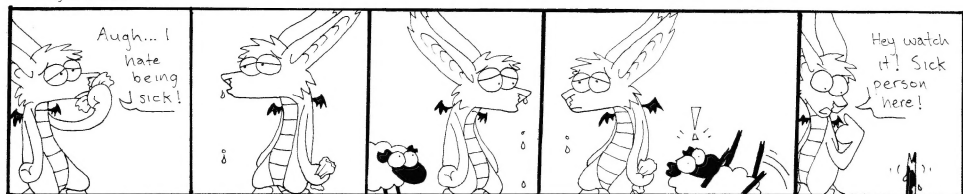
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